FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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# Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

*FBIS-NES-95-189* *29 September 1995*

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## Inter-Arab Affairs

### Arab League Voices Concern Over Comoros Events

*NC2809150295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 28 Sep (MENA)—The Arab League has expressed its extreme concern over the seizure of the presidential palace in the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros and the taking of President Said Mohamed Djohar hostage by an armed group, led by Bon Denard.

Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid made these remarks in a meeting here today with Mohamed Saif al-Yaman [name as received], the Comoran permanent delegate to the Arab League. He expressed the Arab League's desire to preserve the security, sovereignty, and stability of the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros and its Arab people and to safeguard constitutional legitimacy as represented by its elected government.

He urged the international community and the concerned regional and international quarters to adopt all the appropriate measures to end this "aggression," seek the return to power of the constitutional legitimacy represented by President Said Mohamed Djohar, and exert every effort to restore stability and security in this republic.

### Palestinian 'Masses' in Libya Affirm Right To Return

*LD2809212695 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In response to surrender, and in confirmation of the Palestinian Arab people's right to return to its land, and in response to the contents of the brother leader's address on the 26th anniversary of the great 1 September revolution, and at a time when the surrenderers are signing the documents recognizing the Israeli enemy in Washington today, the Palestinian masses present on the territory of the Great Jamahiriyah, while preparing to return to Palestine, held a popular gathering in the city of Tripoli this evening in preparation for the start of the actual return.

The Palestinian Arab masses present on the territory of the Great Jamahiriyah delivered an address in which they greeted the brother leader of the revolution and the Arab Libyan people on the feast of feast, the 26th feast of the great 1 September revolution.

The address said: We stress our right in return and self-determination, and we understand well the revolutionary contents of the call which the revolutionary leader Colonel Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi, has launched.

As Arab Palestinian masses, we insist on the return, and start the return convoys for Palestine, and no one on earth, neither America, nor the surrendering Arab regimes, nor the so-called Palestinian authority, which is selling Palestinian piece by piece, and day after day, can stop this return. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian masses stressed in their address: What is taking place now in Washington is an act condemned by all the Palestinians, and it only belongs to and is obligatory on its owners who sign it, while we, the Palestinians, should transcend the level of the event and make another event which honors us and restore to the mind of the world the meaning of the Palestinian cause, and the meaning of the liberation slogans for which we have carried arms to accomplish so as to establish the future for our children and confront the defeats they are planning today.

The address said: We meet today in this place to announce in the name of the Palestinian Arab masses that at a time when the document relinquishing Palestine is being signed, we announce that it is null and void and only expresses the wishes of those who sign it. It is no more than a fabrication of history, and attempts by a straying group which imposed itself falsely on the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

### Palestinian APF Urges Libya To End Expulsions

*JN2909104595 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[Statement issued by the Alliance of Palestinian Forces; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Command of the Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF] has reviewed the Libyan authority's measures against the Palestinian community there, as well as the subsequent Lebanese Government decisions and measures against Palestinians who hold Lebanese documents. While asserting its rejection of the capitulation agreements of Oslo, Cairo, and Taba, the APF would like to underline the following points:

1. The Libyan authorities' decision neither embarrasses 'Arafat nor serves the Palestinians' right to return to their homeland. On the contrary, it seems that it serves 'Arafat, who claims that frustration that has afflicted the Palestinian people is the result of the measures of Arab states. With this he justifies his humiliating concessions to the Zionist enemy.

2. The Lebanese Government's decisions and measures against Palestinians who hold Lebanese documents actually do service to efforts to displace more than 4 million displaced Palestinians, who were ignored

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by Oslo-Cairo-Taba agreements. These measures clash with the joint, long struggle march of the fraternal Lebanese and Palestinian peoples — a march launched for the sake of Lebanon's unity and Arab identity and resisting the Zionist occupation.

The APF calls on the sisterly Libyan authorities to reverse their expulsion of Palestinians from their territory. It calls on the Lebanese Government to abrogate the imposition of visas on Palestinians, something which restricts their freedom of movement, prejudices their right to residence, and absolves the Lebanese Government from its Pan-Arab responsibility toward the Arab Palestinian people and their cause. The Lebanese brethren know that the Palestinian people accept no country to be an alternative homeland to Palestine. They also know that the Palestinian people will continue their struggle until they realize their goals of liberation, repatriation, and national independence.

## Palestinian Affairs

### Officials, Factions React to Agreement Signing

#### Accord Disappoints Hebron Mayor

*BR2809150195 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 28 Sep 95 p 16*

[Interview with Palestinian Mayor of Hebron Mustafa al-Natshah by Umberto De Giovannangeli in Hebron; date not given — first paragraph is L'UNITA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "The situation in Hebron: 150,000 Palestinian hostages held hostage by 415 extremist settlers. We had been hoping that this ridiculous situation would be overcome with the Taba agreements, but it is not so, at least not for the moment. I understand my people's disappointment: They were expecting freedom, they were hoping to be treated like the Palestinians of Ramallah, Nablus, and Bethlehem... Their disappointment is mine as well, but that is no reason for me to sling mud at 'Arafat for making the agreement. Given the conditions, it was perhaps the best that we could obtain, because the course of diplomatic negotiations is determined by the relative strength of the parties." Hebron Mayor Mustafa al- Natshah is currently the Palestinian personality who best represents that "mixture" of contrasting feelings prevailing in the Territories in the wake of the Taba agreements: disappointment, hope, expectation, and fear. And it is to Hebron, a holy city for both Muslims and Jews, the city of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, that the world is now looking to see if the wager of peaceful coexistence among Palestinians and Israelis can be won: Hebron, where the Jewish settlers have organized a mass rally for today in front of the Tomb of the Patriarchs; Hebron, where "Islamic Jihad" has called a general strike for tomorrow in protest against the Taba settlement, announcing "violent clashes" in a menacing leaflet. "We will do our utmost to curb the violence," said Mayor Natshe, "but the provocative presence of the ultranationalist settlers threatens to foster hatred and to give rise to further bloodshed."

[De Giovannangeli] With only a few hours to go before the ceremony in Washington, what do you think of the deal struck between the PLO and Israel?

[Al-Natshah] It is a question that has been "plaguing" me since I came back to town. Everyone is asking me: "Well then, Mustafa, have we been abandoned to our fate? Has Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] betrayed us?" You see, as mayor of this city, the only reply I can give is yes, we are disappointed, because all of us Palestinians in Hebron were dreaming of the day when we would no longer have to live with the anxiety and terror of the military occupation and the 415 extremist settlers. We had high hopes, and we now feel deep disappointment. Those settlers will remain, and with them the Israeli troops, and so the city will go through further days of fear, incidents, hatred...

[De Giovannangeli] So the Taba settlements are seen as a "great betrayal"?

[Al-Natshah] No, not that. If anything, what we Palestinians in Hebron have been called upon to make is a sort of "great sacrifice," because the future state of Palestine takes shape in the Taba settlements: That for which we have suffered, fought, and paid a high price in bloodshed. For the first time, we will be able to elect our parliament and have a government and a president. Order will be kept in our towns and villages by Palestinians. So, in answer to those who ask me if we have been betrayed, I say that the dream of our fathers and our fathers' fathers was to live in freedom in an independent state. Now we can make that dream come true, at least on part of the land of Palestine, and it is a chance that we must not let slip through our fingers. And this offsets, at least in part, our disappointment at what has not happened in Hebron.

[De Giovannangeli] Who are these 415 settlers living in Hebron, Mr.Mayor; why do they persist in living an "armor-plated" existence, surrounded as they are by the resentment of 150,000 Palestinians?

[Al-Natshah] Well, I have never been a radical, and I think it is wrong to regard all the 120,000 settlers living on the West Bank as dangerous extremists, but the Hebron settlers are another matter: They are nothing less than fanatical fundamentalists. There is no economic, let alone security reason for them to stay on in the

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city. What is so frightening is their conviction that they are in Hebron because it is the outpost of Eretz Israel [Greater Israel], to be defended at all costs and by any means. There is no talking to those who consider themselves chosen for a divine "mission" that they have to accomplish. For them, there is no earthly authority capable of persuading them to leave Hebron: neither Rabin, the "traitor," nor 'Arafat, the "terrorist." "We are here because the Torah tells us so," they keep repeating: "We are the true Jews, not those who live in wishy-washy Tel Aviv..." I ask you: How can we live side by side with those who worship Baruch Goldstein (L'UNITA editor adds: The settler-doctor of Kiryat 'Arba, who opened fire on the Muslim faithful praying at the Tomb of the Patriarchs on 25 February 1994, causing a massacre) as a hero? The memory of that massacre is still an open wound in the heart of every Palestinian in Hebron, and those settlers are like a knife that deepens that wound day by day: They harass us in every way, plastering the city with graffiti singing the praises of "Baruch, hero of Israel," and they are attracting other extremist fanatics to Hebron. And all this does nothing but exasperate people. Their presence produces violence, and that is why we were calling for, and continue to call for their evacuation.

[De Giovannangeli] But Yitzhaq Rabin has placed a veto on their evacuation.

[Al-Natshah] The Israeli prime minister has been swayed by electoral considerations, making a serious mistake, because these settlers are organically linked with the Jewish Right parties. They will never thank Rabin, because what they want is for us, the 150,000 Palestinians who inhabit the city, to be the ones to be "evacuated." For these Eretz Israel fanatics, the Palestinians are merely a blasphemous presence to be removed by any means from the Holy Land of Judea and Samaria. Believe me: There can never be true peace on the West Bank as long as these armed extremists are allowed to act with impunity.

[De Giovannangeli] Before the Taba settlement was signed, you warned 'Arafat: "We will not take part in the election for the Palestinian Autonomy Council unless those settlers are evacuated." What now?

[Al-Natshah] I said what I did to stress the centrality of the Hebron problem to the negotiations, and it has partly served its purpose. Our disappointment remains, but it must not put the importance of this election for the Palestinian people in the shade, and we, the Palestinians of Hebron, are proud to belong to that people.

**Hamas Rejects Accord**

*LD2909061395 Tehran IRNA in English 0553 GMT 29 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, Sep. 29, IRNA — Following is a translation in English of a Hamas leaflet in Arabic on the Taba agreement faxed to IRNA from al-Quds Thursday. Title : Yes to Resistance, No, a Thousand No to the Agreement of Humiliation and Disgrace.

"They deceive God and the believers, but in reality they deceive themselves, but they perceive not (a qoranic verse)."

Praise be to God, and multiple blessing be on our master Mohammad (PBUH) [peace be upon him], the Imam of the pious and the leader of mujahideen, and on his family and companions.

**Our Palestinian people:**

The conspiracy to sell what remained of Palestine goes on, and the price is "titles and posts" given to this or that "leader." Now, we are witnessing chapter II of the conspiracy, a brat [as received] as deformed as chapter I.

However, despite the dismal nature of both agreements, the autonomy authority insists on accepting these futile solutions, yesterday in Oslo and now at Taba, and in both treachery abounds.

Our Palestinian masses, the bulk of which reject the Oslo accords, don't agree to pay additional taxes in the form of more suffering and torment, and be victimized by a policy carried out singlehandedly by this or that person.

The Palestinian negotiating team should have terminated the negotiations the moment it became clear that the Zionists were dictating the text and wording of the agreement.

Moreover, hasn't the delegation noticed that Israel recognizes no sacred dates, that there would be no withdrawal but merely redeployment, that Al-Quds will stay under Zionist occupation, that the herds of Jewish settlers are to stay in al-Khaleel (Hebron), and that the bypass roads will blocade Palestinian towns and villages.

Furthermore, what about our detainees? and what about Al-Quds which you have been saying will be the eternal capital of a Palestinian state?

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**Our great Palestinian people:**

'Arafat realizes well that he is in a predicament of his own making, but he is not sufficiently courageous to admit it he is wrong or to revert to truth.

We, therefore, declare to the whole world that the agreements that sold out al-Aqsa and the Ibrahimi Mosque is null and void as far the Palestinian Muslim people, and Muslims around the world, are concerned.

**Our Muslim brothers around the world:**

The occupation is still omniprresent in our Muslim land, and we are not going to delude ourselves into believing that it will go away without jihad and resistance. We must keep this reality in our minds.

Allah-o-Akbar [God is great] and glory to Islam
[Signed]the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas

### Hamas Spokesman Condemns Accord

*NC2809210295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[Telephone interview with Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah by unidentified correspondent on 28 September; place not given; from the "News and Reports" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Ghawshah, today 'Arafat signed with the Israeli entity a new and humiliating agreement which is an extension of the Oslo Agreement. As official spokesman of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, what are your feelings about and opinion of this Agreement?

[Ghawshah] We would first like to indicate that we share the feelings of the believing Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic people. We feel sad; we do not feel any joy at all, because unfortunately this agreement concluded in Taba offers the Palestinian people only a mirage and treachery.

For example, the Zionist media has spread propaganda that there will be redeployment of the Zionist occupation forces. What you should know is that these forces will only withdraw from 4 percent of the area of the West Bank. In other words, they will withdraw from seven towns. In addition, the hegemony of the Zionists will continue over the majority of the territory, the majority of the water, the electricity, everything.

They are also spreading propaganda that what this agreement will result in is a state. Unfortunately, this state has no real substance. There will be neither sovereignty, nor land, nor people, because the majority of the Palestinian people are abroad. There is no place for the refugees in this agreement. To get this agreement approved, they are trying to drug the people by saying that this stage is transitional. But everyone knows that the Zionists' stance will not change, either regarding Jerusalem, the settlements, or sovereignty over the territory.

[Correspondent] We thank Mr. Ibrahim Ghawshah for the opportunity he has given to the News and Reports program.

### 'Black Flags' Raised Over Accord, Expulsions

*NC2809114895 Paris AFP in English 1127 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 'Ayn al-Hulwah, Lebanon, Sept 28 (AFP)—Palestinian refugees in Lebanon on Thursday [28 September] raised black flags in a day of mourning to protest the "treacherous" West Bank self-rule accord and the expulsion of Palestinians from Libya.

The protest strike was called by the popular committees which run Lebanon's 12 refugee camps — home to half of Lebanon's 300,000 Palestinian refugee community — opposition groups and Moslem fundamentalist factions. A statement in 'Ayn al-Hulwah, the largest compound, denounced the accord for extending self rule as an "act of treason" and went on to blast Libya's decision to expel Palestinian workers and Lebanon's refusal to take them in.

Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has said he is expelling Palestinians to show the "failure" of the PLO-Israeli autonomy accords to create a Palestinian homeland. "We refuse to pay the price of the treacherous accords signed by (PLO leader Yasir) 'Arafat and we will continue to carry our arms until the end of the Israeli occupation of Arab land," said Munir al-Miqdah, a Fatah dissident who controls the south Lebanon camp.

Israel and the PLO concluded the accord spreading self-rule across the West Bank in Taba, Egypt on Sunday and were to sign it later Thursday at the White House.

Al-Miqdah said the Palestinians refused to stay permanently in Lebanon and blasted Beirut's decision to control their movements and refusal to take in Palestinian workers expelled from Libya. "These measures serve to increase the repression, humiliation and sufferings of the Palestinian people and will provoke a revolution," he said. Al-Miqdah violently attacked Lebanese Interior Minister Michel al-Murr, saying the measures adopted by Lebanon on his recommendation were personally motivated and a threat to Palestinians.

In the north Lebanon camps of Biddawi and Nahr al-Barid, like in 'Ayn al-Hulwah, shops and schools were

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shut down and camp officials said in a joint statement: "This is a black day in the history of the Palestinian cause." In the Syrian-controlled eastern Biqa' Valley camp of Al-Jalil, black flags were hoisted and a one-hour sit-in was staged at the offices of the UN relief agency for refugees. Tyres burned at the entrance to the Shatila camp in Beirut, which was devastated in the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, and black flags were hoisted atop houses although shops stayed open.

In the al-Rashidiyah camp, in south Lebanon, the last bastion controlled by 'Arafat supporters, life went on normally.

Mahmud, a butcher, echoing a popular opinion, said he neither opposed nor supported but backed "any solution that can put an end to our hardships here in Lebanon where our movements are now controlled and in Libya where our brothers are being thrown out."

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said on Wednesday the Taba agreement, like the Oslo accords which paved the way for Palestinian self-rule, have failed to clarify the fate of Palestinian refugees. "How can anyone believe that the agreement which will be signed will protect the rights of the people when in fact it is ignoring the majority of these people," said Buwayz.

According to the PLO there are four million Palestinian refugees scattered across the world and the fate of those expelled in 1948 will only be discussed starting May 1996.

### APF Rejects Taba

*JN2909095095 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Sep 95*

["Text" of statement by the Alliance of Palestinian Forces in reaction to the Palestinian-Israeli Taba agreement on 28 September]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The central command of the Alliance of Palestinian Forces [APF] has considered the recent developments and the current status of the question of Palestine resulting from the series of humiliating concessions made by 'Arafat and his team. The last of these concessions is the agreement that was reached in Taba by 'Arafat and enemy Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres — an agreement whose signing is being celebrated in Washington. While expressing its full rejection and vehement condemnation of this agreement and all previous agreements with the Zionist enemy, the APF would like to stress the following:

1. This agreement fully meets the Zionist enemies' conditions and realizes the goals which the American-Zionist plan sought to impose on our people and their national cause. It is an extension of the Oslo agreement that would consecrate occupation and acknowledge the legality of its existence. Henceforth, any talk about redeployment of occupation troops is nothing but a falsification of facts. The content of the agreement secures Zionist control over all Palestinian territory, and makes its cities mere islands isolated from one other and surrounded by occupation troops and settlements. The agreement has stipulated that the Zionist enemy will maintain responsibility for comprehensive security.

2. This agreement underscores that the settlement drive and settlements will continue. It gives the enemy the right to supervise and protect these settlements. Moreover, the clause in the agreement that provides for security arrangements in Hebron and the right of the enemy to supervise the so-called Jewish houses in the heart of the city and on the roads leading to it disclose the Zionist goals that seek to sanctify settlements throughout the West Bank. Moreover, giving the Zionist enemy a free hand in taking these measures defines the future of Jerusalem city in advance. This is being done at a time when the enemy seeks to judaize Jerusalem and confiscate more lands to expand settlements therein, and at a time when its features are being altered and its holy places violated.

This agreement reflects the extent of submission and capitulation to the enemies' will and the level of humiliation which the treasonous group that signed the agreement has sunk into. It has recognized the Zionist enemy's control over the holy Ibrahimi Mosque and the holy places in Palestine.

3. The agreement has made pawns out of the prisoners and detainees. The Zionist enemy will specify the conditions and stages of their release. These confirms the collusion of the satellite self-rule administration with the Zionist enemy against our prisoners. The aim of this is to guarantee the security of the enemy and that of the satellite self-rule administration.

4. The clause in the agreement on the self-rule authority elections is nothing more than deception and falsification, and an attempt to embellish the agreement. The aim of these elections is to cancel the PLO and its charter. They also seeks to give false legitimacy to a satellite self-rule administration that is linked to the enemy and carries out its security duties, and confronts the angry popular movement which rejects such liquidatory agreements.

Based on the above, the APF calls on our people to boycott these elections. It would like to stress its determination to rebuild the PLO's institutions along

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democratic lines and on the basis of its national charter in order to preserve the PLO's national identity.

The APF reiterates its rejection and condemnation of this agreement. It emphasizes that the treasonous group that signed the agreement does not represent our people and does not express their national will. The APF will continue its struggle to topple these liquidatory agreements and will perpetuate struggles and clashes with the invading enemies until our Palestinian people's national goals of liberation, repatriation, self-determination, and full national independence are realized.

The APF calls upon the masses of our Palestinian people inside the occupied homeland and in the diaspora to express their indignation and rejection of these agreement. It calls anew on the living forces in our Arab and Islamic nation to denounce and expose these agreements and lend support to the struggle of the Palestinian people until their national goals are realized.

### Commentator: Accord 'Futile'

*JN2809132595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 Sep 95*

[Commentary by Ibrahim Basyuni; from the "Palestine" program: "Talk of the Return"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brothers on the road of revolution and liberation: The national popular and official campaign is escalating inside and outside the occupied homeland against the Taba agreement, which is expected to be finally and officially signed tomorrow in Washington, after having been initially signed in Taba last Sunday.

The national forces as well as the Palestinian figures and organizations condemned the Taba agreement because it constitutes a setback for the national Palestinian struggle and the Palestinian people's aspirations. This agreement is tailored in a typical Israeli style providing Israel with security, peace, and land and depriving the Palestinian people from regaining any of their rights.

The Taba agreement left many thorny problems unresolved. It did not bring anything new that would alleviate the suffering and agony of hundreds of thousands of our Palestinian Arab people. On the contrary, this agreement has fragmented the West Bank and entrenched the Israeli occupation of the bulk of its territories. It also allowed Israel to keep all the settlements and kept the settlers' hotbed in the middle of Hebron. These settlers are a source of provocation as well as attacks on the Arab inhabitants of the city.

In light of these facts, the Taba agreement, despite all the propaganda associated with it, remains a futile agreement, and can never establish any form of peace in the region because, first of all, it conflicts with the objectives and principles of the peace process as outlined in the Madrid conference. Second, it foiled the aspirations and ambitions of the Palestinian Arab people and did not guarantee their right to freedom and deliverance from the hateful occupation.

The Taba agreement, like all previous agreements, did not and will not achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region because it conflicts with international legitimacy resolutions as well as UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land-for-peace principle from which the peace process proceeded.

Peace and security will not be realized so long as Israel continues to occupy one inch of the Arab territory and so long as the settlements continue on this land. Peace has its bases and principles, most prominent among which is Israel's full withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories on all fronts. Otherwise, the peace process will remain hostage to Israeli maneuvering and procrastination, which have obstructed the peace process.

### Islamic Jihad Leaflet Condemns Accord

*NC2709115295 Paris AFP in English 1135 GMT Sep 27 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Sept 27 (AFP) - The radical Palestinian group Islamic Jihad called for a general strike in the tinderbox town of Hebron on Thursday [28 September], the day of the Washington signing of a deal to extend West Bank autonomy. It also called for a boycott of self-rule elections to follow an Israeli army redeployment in a statement distributed Wednesday in the occupied territories. "The issue of Taba will not pass without punishment," the group warned, referring to the accord initialled on Sunday in the Egyptian Red Sea resort.

The fundamentalist group called for a closedown of Hebron and protests demanding the dismissal of the town's mayor, Mustafa al- Natshah, who took part in the Taba negotiations. It also warned of "violent clashes" with Israeli forces on Friday, the day of Moslem prayers.

The Taba agreement calls for a phased Israeli withdrawal from six West Bank towns but only a partial pull-out from Hebron, where 400 Jews live among 120,000 Arabs. The redeployment clears the way for Palestinian self-rule elections. "The document of shame and dishonour was cooked up in Taba by the cornerstones of sacrilege and hypocrisy, protecting in its folds the corrupt cluster of the settlers of Hebron," it said.

The group also denounced the planned polls. "We announce to all that the issue of legislative elections

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is blasphemous, and it is heretical to have anything to do with them," it said.

Jewish settlers, who have likewise condemned the West Bank deal, protested on Wednesday of a secret clause for their evacuation from Hebron after the first sign of trouble.

### Hebron Mayor: Leaflet 'Fabricated'

*TA2709181995 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Sep 95*

[Interview with Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah by Fayiz 'Umar in Hebron on 27 September — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Natshah] When the advantages of the agreement become obvious — there are advantages and disadvantages — including the fact that 85 percent of Hebron will come under the control of the Palestinian Authority [PA] and that 400 policemen will be deployed in the town, the citizens will feel safe. At that time some of the advantages of the agreement will become apparent. Of course, as I said, we will struggle against the disadvantages; namely, we seek the evacuation of the settlers.

['Umar] Do you think that the PA can create a climate of stability, tranquility, and safety for the citizens?

[Al-Natshah] Of course. Look at the Gaza Strip — how was the situation in the Gaza Strip 18 months ago, and how is it today. Now every citizen feels that he is safe in his home.

['Umar] But yesterday the Islamic Jihad movement distributed a statement assailing this agreement?

[Al-Natshah] The leaflet is fabricated by a tendentious individual, and we know who is behind this statement. This individual harbors personal resentment toward the municipal council.

### Hamas Leaflet: 'Arafat 'Traitor'

*TA2809082195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] A commercial strike is being staged in Hebron this morning and no schools are open. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the strike was declared by the rejectionist organizations in protest against the signing of the agreement in Washington.

Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] disseminated a leaflet in the territories which terms 'Arafat a traitor and says he fell prey to the Oslo trap and does not have the courage to admit his mistake. The leaflet calls on the residents of the territories to remove the occupation in the only possible way, that of jihad.

### Fatah Leaders Take Credit for Latest Accord

*TA2909090795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 29 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Fatah leaders in the West Bank say the agreement signed in Washington yesterday is a direct outcome of the intifadah which they led in the territories for years. Ibrahim Kar'in, head of the Palestinian Press Agency, says Zionism and the Palestinian national movement can coexist peacefully. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports:

[Begin recording] [Ben-Menahem] The Palestinians are not enthusiastic about the idea raised by Shim'on Peres concerning a confederation with Jordan. Marwan al-Barghuthi, secretary general of Fatah in the West Bank, says that the Palestinians first of all want to establish their independent state. Only then will they examine the idea of a confederation. Al-Barghuthi added that in any event, the Palestine National Council several years ago made a decision concerning the confederation issue. As far as the Palestinians are concerned, after they free themselves of Israeli rule they will be in no hurry to unite with a country such as Jordan, even though it is an Arab state.

I asked Ibrahim Kar'in, editor of the Palestinian weekly AL-'AWDAH and head of the Palestinian press agency, whether now, after the signing of the agreement in Washington, Zionism and the Palestinian national movement can coexist:

[Kar'in] I am convinced they can coexist; the two movements already coexist and will continue to coexist. The two movements have many things in common, and we share one country. It is a shame that for many years we destroyed this country, but today we will both start to rebuild it.

[Ben-Menahem] Many Fatah leaders in the territories, who have been in the vanguard of the intifadah for several years, say the agreement signed in Washington yesterday is the direct outcome of the intifadah and that without their struggle, the Palestinians would not have attained this achievement. [end recording]

### Hebron Demonstration Calls For Settlers' Expulsion

*TA2709114895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 27 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The procession and rally organized by the Palestinian office of information have ended. The demonstrators, headed by the mayor and the heads of the waqf offices of the Palestinian Authority [PA], called for the settlers' expulsion from the city. They complained that the army prohibited them from

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marching through the city streets and entering the Cave of the Patriarchs, driving them away to market alleys.

Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el reports that as the protesters were dispersing, they and the soldiers pushed and shoved each other and, according to local residents, one injured demonstrator required medical treatment.

**Fatah Leaders Urge Disarming, Removing Settlers**

*TA2809093195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Fatah's leadership in the West Bank calls for disarming the Hebron settlers and evacuating the radical Jewish families. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that an announcement released by the Fatah leadership on the occasion of signing the agreement in Washington states that the Hebron settlers constitute a constant point of friction which will lead to violent outbursts, and that there will be no peace as long as the settlements in the territories exist.

**Release of Prisoners Said To Begin Next Week**

*JN2809092795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, member of the Palestinian delegation negotiating the release of prisoners, expected female prisoners and other detainees to be released from the occupation prisons as of next week.

In a statement to Voice of Palestine this morning, 'Abd-al-Raziq said the agreement to release the detainees will become valid after signing the agreement on the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles at the White House this evening. 'Abd-al-Raziq pointed out that according to the Taba agreement, prisoners in the occupation prisons will be released in three stages according to certain criteria. At the first stage, all females, sick, elderly, and minors will be released.

**Yusuf: 23,000 Police To Be Deployed in PA Areas**

*TA2709181395 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH in Arabic 22 Sep 95 p 3*

[Interview with Major General Nasr Yusuf, director general of Palestinian Public Security and Police, by Jihan Fawzi in Gaza; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Fawzi] How do you assess the security situation in the Palestinian Authority [PA] areas one year after its arrival?

[Yusuf] During this short period and with the available capabilities, we managed to reach a good security level. This does not mean, however, that there are not many shortages and negative points in the capabilities or work. In most cases this is beyond our control. We need some time to gain more expertise, and we require economic assistance in order to reach the necessary potential that would help us in our work.

[Fawzi] Some people say that the relationship of the police with the opposition is confrontational.

[Yusuf] We are keen on providing the necessary security for our society. We have commitments to the Israeli side — with whom we signed an agreement — and to the region. We are keen on providing security. This applies to the armed opposition movement. They should reassess all their policies and evaluate well their own and the region's situations in order to understand and absorb its changes so that they will be able to deal with the current situation in a responsible manner and uphold the interests of their people at this delicate stage.

[Fawzi] Are you capable of containing difficult problems?

[Yusuf] We intend to control the security situation even if we have to use all means to achieve this result and even if force is the only way. I do not believe that we will let the Gaza Strip turn into south Lebanon. [passage omitted]

[Fawzi] How many policemen will be deployed in the PA areas?

[Yusuf] The number of policemen in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will reach 23,000. In my view this is a large number, especially since the economic situation precludes further elaboration. Some 16,000 policemen are already here, about 1,500 will arrive from abroad, and the rest will be recruited locally. [passage omitted]

[Fawzi] What is your current relationship with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad?

[Yusuf] We are an executive side in this relationship. The PA and the political leadership have the decision-making power. The executive apparatus was formed by them.

[Fawzi] What is the degree of cooperation between the joint Palestinian-Israeli patrols?

[Yusuf] We can say that the joint patrols have proved their success through experience. We faced some violations of public order and security, but there is a political situation that governs the direction and relations between them. The work is not subject to personal whims. Ultimately, it is guided by an agreed-upon method of action.

[Fawzi] Have you received any practical assistance from abroad for the police apparatus?

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[Yusuf] Some European countries have offered us short and intensive courses. Moreover, Egypt has provided lofty service in this sphere at the Egyptian Police Academy for the different expertise that we require. There is no doubt, however, that we have a deficiency in this field that poses many problems. [passage omitted]

**National Conference Planned for Nabulus**

*TA2809162795 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 27 Sep 95 pp 1, 22*

[Report by Muhammad Daraghmah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Nabulus — AL-QUDS has learned that preparations are under way to organize a big national conference in Nabulus on 1 October to discuss a Palestinian national covenant plan proposed by national and Islamic organizations and personalities in the city.

Invitations to the conference, which will be called "The Nabulus National Conference", have been sent to a large number of Palestinian political, cultural, and public organizations and figures. [passage omitted]

It has been learned that personalities from the Islamic and national opposition, as well as independents and representatives of the Palestinian Authority and of various national organizations, will participate in the conference.

**Fatah Holds First Constituent Congress in Gaza**

*JN2809114595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Sep 95*

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the presence of Fatah Central Committee members, the Fatah movement held its first constituent congress for the Gaza Strip region at Shaykh 'Awwad at the al-Azhar University today.

Fatah Central Committee member 'Abbas Zaki called on all political forces to hold a national dialogue to achieve national unity and to establish a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Zaki stressed that building the homeland needs further efforts, and that the stage necessitates the mobilization of all potential. He pointed out that the agreement on the Declaration of Principles does not mean relinquishment of national rights. He stressed the importance of adhering to national constants.

Zaki conveyed greetings from President 'Arafat and Fatah leaders to the congress members. He said: The stage is difficult, and we are facing challenges, particularly regarding the construction process, the promulgation of laws, and putting the Palestinian house in order.

Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, official in charge of the region, said: We will hold legislative elections in the coming stage. This necessitates that the movement get ready to this important event.

What counts is not the agreement, but the implementation of the agreement on the ground. This implementation marks the beginning of the establishment of the independent Palestinian state, he said. Dr. al-Agha hailed the sacrifices of martyrs, the detainees, and the wounded, and expressed the hope that the congress will achieve results which would reflect positively on the organizational and national life, and contribute to the ongoing homeland-building process.

Rawhi Fattuh, member of the organizational committee which prepared for the congress, stressed the need to exercise democracy. He added that the battle for safeguarding Hebron should continue in order to liberate it.

The congress activities will last 5 days, and will include all regions in the Gaza Strip. Region commanders will be elected at the conclusion of the congress.

## Arab-Israeli Talks

**Leaders Give Speeches at Washington Signing Ceremony**

**Palestinian Authority's 'Arafat**

*JN2809195695 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[Address by Palestinian Authority President Yasir 'Arafat at the signing ceremony of the Israeli-Palestinian Taba agreement at the White House in Washington on 28 September—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] President William Clinton; Your Majesty King Husayn, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; Your Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Prime Minister Gonzalez, prime minister of Spain and president of the office of the European Union; Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister of Israel; Your excellencies ministers and ambassadors.

We gather today under the sponsorship of President Clinton, who has kindly offered to host the signing of this agreement. Two years have passed since we met at the White House to sign the Declaration of Principles on which we and our Israeli partners have agreed in Oslo. We meet again today to make new headway in formulating this great historic process — the process of achieving equitable peace, reconciliation, and coexistence between the Palestinian and Israeli

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peoples. It is realizing the peace of the brave, which we achieved on the Egyptian land of Taba, under President Mubarak's auspices.

A significant portion of Palestinian national rights reverts today to the Palestinian people through their control of the cities, villages, and populated areas. Recovery of this portion is a step in the implementation of the interim agreement, which we are gathered here to sign. It is also a step, which paves the way to free and democratic Palestinian elections, capping thereby the political components required for the establishment of an independent Palestinian national entity in the Palestinian territories.

These steps, which required tremendous efforts as well as exhausting and relentless work throughout the past months do not make us oblivious to the fact that added diligence lies ahead to implement this agreement in our land in the West Bank. We still carry on our shoulders many other tasks, such as moving toward the permanent status negotiations as soon as possible. The permanent status negotiations will deal with such issues as settlements, the delineation of the borders, the rights of Palestinian refugees as determined by international legitimacy, and the fundamental issue concerning the status of Jerusalem, which our people irrespective of their faith — Muslims, Christians, or Jews — consider to be the heart and soul of their entity and the center of their cultural, spiritual, and economic life. Here, I must note that the sanctity of Jerusalem for us all dictates that we make it the joint cornerstone and the capital of peace between the Palestinian and Israel peoples inasmuch as it is a beacon for believers all over the world.

We urge everyone to recognize the importance of this historic interim step. It demonstrates the irreversibility of the peace process. Its distinct significance lies in the verdict passed by history, the international community, and human civilization at the turn of the century; that a just and comprehensive peace be established on this sacred land, under which the Israeli and Palestinian peoples would coexist on the basis of mutual recognition of rights while enjoying equality and self-determination without occupation or repeated wars and without terrorism.

At this point, I must tell our Israeli partners from this solemn rostrum and in the presence of our brethren and friends who have come here from the region and from all over the world, particularly those who contributed to the realization of this agreement, that our past experience underscores the need to be more critical and committed to our steps in the future. The commitment should be precise, honest, and mutual. On our part, we will honor our commitments. That is why the continuation and expansion of the settlement drive, as the situation in the city of Hebron and elsewhere shows, lead to the persistence of tension. Likewise, continued qualms about a new independent Palestinian birth conveys to each and every Palestinian the feeling that his or her life shall remain in jeopardy. Today, standing before you, I tell you with full courage and a sense of responsibility that our participation in the great peace process means that we are wagering on history and the future. Therefore, we must condemn and foresware violence totally, not only because the use of violence is morally reprehensible but because it undermines Palestinian aspirations to the realization of peace, the exercise of our political and national options, and the achievement of economic and cultural progress in Palestine and in the region. From this day on, we do not want to see any waste of or threat to any innocent Palestinian life or any innocent Israeli life. Enough killing and enough killing of innocent people.

I today call on you, Mr. President, and on all our attending brethren and friends, to continue working for a comprehensive and just solution in our region on all tracks, especially the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, to complete all aspects of the process.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are continuing our efforts in two parallel lines, one is to achieve a just political solution to our cause, and the other is to build a homeland on modern and democratic bases. For us to succeed in both lines, the Palestinian political system must be based on liberty, democracy, separation of powers, freedom of expression, and national initiative.

We must also complete building the Palestinian institutions and the Palestinian national economy. However, this process is still in its early stages, and our institutions have yet to mature.

The road ahead is still long. Hence, we look forward to your continued support for our people, and we thank all friendly and brotherly donors for their assistance to us.

Mr. President: As the experience of your great country—the country of freedom, democracy, and human rights—taught us, freedom is indivisible. From this premise, I emphasize to you and to our people and to all our faithful friends that our people's freedom will remain lacking without all our detainees walking free.

All the martyrs, the wounded, and the victims dreamt of freedom, peace, and justice for their children, for the Israeli children, and for the future generations on both sides. In keeping with that dream and with that correct vision, we will continue our march despite all its difficulties. It is the march and reconciliation of the brave.

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In conclusion, Mr. President, I thank you deeply for your meticulous care for this process and the historic reconciliation. I greatly appreciate your personal involvement, the role played by your government and aides who persevered in helping us all along to overcome and settle difficulties.

I am very grateful to my brother, His Excellency President Husni Mubarak for his great and sincere efforts and for his fruitful interventions until the Taba agreement was crowned with success. I hail the support of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd, and the stand and support of his majesty King Hassan II. I especially thank my brother, His majesty King Husayn, for his support, for his efforts, and for his invaluable counseling. I thank President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali for his diligence and efforts. I also thank my brethren the Arab leaders for lending us a willing hand. I appreciate the role of the Russian sponsor and that of President Yeltsin who spared no efforts or advice to push the peace process closer to its historic destination. I appreciate the role of the permanent members of the UN Security Council. I express my appreciation to Norway, a friendly country that has guided us throughout the process.

I thank the presidency and the member states of the European Union who exerted maximum efforts and extended great support throughout this march. I thank Japan, a friendly country whose backing was vital to our efforts. I thank the friendly and brotherly nations which helped realize this historic event, particularly the Nonaligned Movement, the African countries and the Islamic nations.

I am also grateful and thankful to Mr. Rabin, the prime minister of Israel, and Mr. Peres, the Israeli foreign minister, and their assistants for all their tireless efforts with us to reach this joint agreement. I tell them: Let us nurture this peace of the brave for the sake of our grandchildren, of our people's, and of the region as a whole.

Thank you very much, Mr. President. I wish to thank you and to thank the first lady. I express my heartfelt wishes of success, happiness, and prosperity for your country and people. Thank you all.

### Israeli Prime Minister Rabin

*TA2809154995 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 28 Sep 95*

[Speech by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the signing ceremony of the Israeli-Palestinian Taba agreement at the White House in Washington on 28 September—live]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The President of the United States; the King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; the President of Egypt; the Chairman of the Palestinian Authority; Prime Ministers; Foreign Ministers; Ladies and Gentlemen:

Now, after a long series of formal, festive statements, take a look at this stage. The King of Jordan, the President of Egypt, Chairman 'Arafat, and us, the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Israel, on one platform.

Please take a good, hard look. The sight you see before you at this moment was impossible, was fantastic, just two or three years ago. Only poets dreamed of it; and, to our great pain, soldiers and civilians went to their deaths to make this moment possible. Here we stand before you, men whom fate and history have sent on a mission of peace: to end, once and for all, one hundred years of bloodshed.

Our dream is also your dream. King Husayn, President Mubarak, Chairman 'Arafat, all the others, and above all the President, Bill Clinton — a president working in the service of peace — we all love the same children, weep the same tears, hate the same enmity, and pray for reconciliation. Peace has no borders.

Yes, I know: our speeches are already repeating themselves. Perhaps this picture has already become routine. The handshakes no longer set your pulse racing; your loving hearts no longer pound with emotion, as they did then. We've begun to get used to each other. We're like old acquaintances. I can tell you about all about 'Arafat's quirks. He can tell you all about mine.

We have matured in the two years since we first shook hands here, the handshake that was the sign and symbol of the start of reconciliation. Today we are more sober. We are gladdened by the potential for reconciliation but are also wary of the dangers that lurk on every side. The enemies of yesterday share a common enemy today: the terrorism that sows death in our homes and on the buses that ply the streets. The sounds of celebration here cannot drown out the cries of innocent citizens who travelled those buses to their deaths. And your eyes shining here cannot erase for a single moment the sight of the lifeless eyes of the students who were going to their classes and the housewives who were on their way to market when hatred struck them down. We are pained by their deaths, and remember them with love.

I want to say to you, Chairman 'Arafat: Do not let the land flowing with milk and honey become a land flowing with blood and tears. Don't let it happen. If all the partners to peace-making do not unite against the

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evil angels of death by terrorism, all that will remain of this ceremony are color snapshots, empty mementos. Rivers of hatred will overflow again — and swamp the Middle East. We, Gentlemen, will not permit terrorism to defeat peace. We will not allow it. If we do not have partners in this bitter, difficult war, we will fight it alone. We know how to fight. We know how to win.

My brother Jews: Thousands of years of exile and the dream of generations have returned us to our historic home in the Land of Israel, the Land of the Prophets. Etched on every vineyard, every field, every olive tree, every flower is the deep imprint of Jewish history, of the Book of Books that we have bequeathed to the entire world, of the values of morality and justice. Every place in the Land of the Prophets, every name is an integral part of our heritage of thousands of years, of the Divine Promise to us and to our descendants. Here is where we were born. Here is where we created a nation. Here we forged a haven for the persecuted and built a model democratic state.

But we are not alone here on this soil, in this land. And so we are sharing this good earth today with the Palestinian people — in order to choose life. Starting today, an agreement on paper will be translated into reality on the ground. We are not retreating. We are not leaving. We are yielding — and we are doing so for the sake of peace. Our neighbors, the Palestinian people: We who have seen you in your miseeighbors.

Ladies and Gentlemen: This week the Jewish people in its thousands of places of dispersion has marked the New Year, and in their holiday prayers, Jews everywhere are saying: "May we be remembered and inscribed before You in the Book of Life and of blessing and peace and prosperity, of deliverance and comfort and opportunity, we and all Your People, the House of Israel, for a good life and peace." These are my wishes to all the Jewish people. These are my wishes to all the citizens of Israel: a good life and peace. These are also our wishes to our neighbors, and to all the world's peoples: a good life and peace.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Look at us again. Look at this scene on the stage, here in the White House. You are not excited anymore. You have grown accustomed to it. But in order for peace to be complete, in order for this picture to be complete and for the Middle East to become a jewel in the world's crown, it still lacks two people: the President of Syria and the President of Lebanon. I call upon them to come and join us, to come to the platform of peace.

Ladies and Gentlemen: If and when this happens, we will again ask President Clinton to be our gracious host; we will again ask King Husayn, President Mubarak, Chairman 'Arafat, and all the others to return here, to be partners in the glorious picture of all the peoples of the Middle East dwelling in security.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Let me extend my wish, to all of us, that we may meet here again — and soon. Happy New Year.

### Israeli Foreign Minister Peres

*TA2809172695 Jerusalem Israel Tel vision Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1631 GMT 28 S. p 95*

[Speech by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the signing ceremony of the Israeli-Palestinian Taba agreement at the White House in Washington on 28 September — live in English]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr. President of the United States of America, Majesties, Excellencies, and friends: In these holidays for our people we pray: Who shall be cast down and who shall be uplifted; God's verdict, our choice. I felt its meaning when, hours before Rosh Hashanah, we didn't know if it would fail or succeed, and once it was decided, I knew that a dream became a contract, an impasse an opportunity. Nobody forced us. Not everybody agreed with us. Yes, it was done not out of fear or weakness; it was our free choice, our moral preference not to compel ourselves to be the rulers of another people, to be the rulers of the Palestinian people.

Once the agreement will be implemented, no longer will the Palestinians reside under our domination. They will gain self-rule, and we shall return to our heritage. The talks were a negotiation on a tightrope, over a scenery full of mountains of hatred and chasms of fear. The road was uncharted, the process unprecedented, yet we have arrived.

The agreement should be judged by its potential, not just by its contents. It will introduce the agenda of the 21st century into the miseries of the Middle East — an agenda of cultural pluralism, economic prosperity, market economy, industry, science, budgets that give priority to education, and, finally, a democracy supported by participation and offering equality.

Now Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinians, and Israel can convert the rift into a height of culture and economy, carrying the peace to awaiting destinations, to invite the Syrians, the Lebanese to join in so as to make it comprehensive for all of us. It is an agreement to end confrontation and a promise to the young generations — Muslims, Christians, Jews — to be free from the clouds of war, the insults of tyranny, the alienation of suspicion; to enable them to travel freely, pray uninterruptedly, and see in their pasts not a burden but a permit for their own genesis.

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There is no future for posterity if there is no peace. I watched the change at the negotiations in Elat and Taba. Had they taken place a few years ago, probably everybody — the Palestinians and us — would have come with rifles. Now they carried doubts; doubts are better than rifles. So, finally, it wound up as a group, almost a united group, in search of peace.

I couldn't but think of the young boys and girls who lost their lives enabling this meeting to become an opportunity for the next generation. Prime Minister Rabin and I are experienced enough to relate to the youngsters. We knew that the choice we made contains risks, but avoiding it would invite hopelessness. We serve a world sick of violence, an age tired of failure, a future anxious for a new vision.

I would like to thank the United States, its people, and its President for the unique role they played in the peacemaking; the Russians for cosponsoring it; the Europeans for their strong backing to build a European-like future. I thank President Mubarak and King Husayn for being at peace and advancing peace all over the places and invite Chairman 'Arafat to the new endeavor.

We wish the Palestinian people peace, democracy, and prosperity. We were born in the same cradle; then we fought each other on the same front. Too long. Now we can embark on a voyage to make our relations family-like again.

I wish the Jewish people, my brothers and sisters, a happy New Year on the road to fulfill our ancient dream: to be a free people in our land, the land of Zion and Jerusalem; to be free in a commonwealth of peace and freedom emerging in our troubled, promised, promising land, beloved land, the Middle East. Thank you.

### PLO Executive Committe's 'Abbas

*JN2809175995 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1638 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[Speech by Mahmud 'Abbas, PLO Executive Committee member, at the signing ceremony of the Israeli-Palestinian Taba agreement at the White House in Washington on 28 September—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Mr. President, Your Majesty King Husayn, President Mubarak, Prime Minister Rabin, Prime Minister Philipe Gonzales, Brother President Yasir 'Arafat, Ladies and Gentlemen, God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Two years ago, here, and under the auspices of the U.S. Government and the Russian Federation, we signed the Declaration of Principles, that historic event, through which we ended a century of aggression, hatred, wars, bloodshed, and destruction. We have determined with complete will, desire, and ambition to have a historic reconciliation between our two peoples; reconciliation that is founded on the basis of justice and international legitimacy, reconciliation that is based on good intentions and equality.

Some people tried to belittle that historic event and went so far as to condemn it and level accusations. Others with skeptical views expected failure and neglect for that historic event. The third group tried to repress that historic event by the use of force, violence, and terrorism to silence the genuine desire of peace that exists among the peoples' of the region and to replace it with the old methods. However, the determination of the majority and the wisdom of the leadership on both sides did not allow them to succeed and overcame all the difficulties and obstacles. This majority contained all violence and terrorism, and with a strong determination, decided to walk the path of peace, a path that was chosen by the leadership and accepted by the people.

We reaffirm here and now that we will stand fast against everyone who tries to obstruct this process and reverse the wheels of history. Peacemakers represent the future while terrorism has become a part of the past that will never come again.

For more than a year, our negotiators exerted incredible and relentless efforts. They spent long days, weeks, and months, and they went through the most difficult and painstaking circumstances. They lived through extreme tension. But you, Mr. President, President Clinton, as well as president Mubarak, King Husayn, and also King Hassan II, and President Ben Ali, you all were with the negotiators, every hour and every minute. Here you are today with us to celebrate the achievements of all those heroes.

A phase has ended but we are still at the beginning of the road. We must continue our efforts to fulfill the process and to do our duties. We have to solve the issues of the permanent status, which we hope will be crowned with success and allow us to reach not only a peace agreement but a peace treaty on the land of peace.

Mr. President, the problem of those in detention has been solved through phases. This is an issue that will introduce happiness to the hearts of many Palestinian families. If I were in Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's position—this is only a wish—I would have released all of them to bring happiness and smiles to every home. These smiles are the key that will open the hearts for peace.

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Your Majesty, Your Excellencies, distinguished guests, peace be upon you for as much as you have done for peace. Thank you.

**Rabinovich on Rabin-Clinton Meeting, Syria**

*TA2809160895 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1532 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[Interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, by Ya'aqov Ahime'ir at the White House in Washington — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ahime'ir] Prime Minister Rabin held a private meeting with President Clinton earlier today. Ambassador Rabinovich, who attended the meeting, is here with me. I am not certain that he will tell us the full details of the conversation. Good day, Mr. Ambassador.

[Rabinovich] Your doubts are well-founded.

[Ahime'ir] What can you tell us about the meeting?

[Rabinovich] The meeting dealt with a series of issues, primarily bilateral U.S.-Israeli relations. We discussed the negotiations, which came to a successful conclusion, extensively. Last minute efforts were made to tie up a few loose ends.

[Ahime'ir] Are all the loose ends now tied?

[Rabinovich] The agreement will be signed.

[Ahime'ir] What more can you tell us about the talk?

[Rabinovich] I believe the prime minister will present an organized briefing on the talk later.

[Ahime'ir] Did the President really stress the need to resume the negotiations with Syria? You head the Israeli team in these negotiations.

[Rabinovich] There was no need for the President to do that, because we, too, want the talks to resume. The problem is how to resume the talks and remove the obstacle placed by the Syrians. I do not believe there are differences between the way Israel and the United States view this issue.

[Ahime'ir] Does this mean that the talks will resume?

[Rabinovich] No. It means the United States will try to get the talks restarted. We hope the Syrians will respond in kind.

**Mubarak Meets With Rabin, Peres; Musa Comments**

*NC2909064295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0245 GMT 29 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 28 Sep (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in his residence at Blair House in Washington at 2100 Washington time tonight. The meeting was attended by Information Minister Safwat al- Sharif, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and Ahmad Mahir, Egyptian ambassador in Washington.

Musa later stated that the meeting reviewed implementation plans for the Palestinian-Israeli agreement officially signed in Washington today and the possibility of speeding up this implementation. He added that they also discussed the killing of Egyptian POW's during the 1956 and 1967 wars. The president reiterated the need to launch an investigation into the case, Musa said. The foreign minister added that the Israeli prime minister expressed his interest in the matter and said he would look into it once again. Musa pointed out that contacts on this will continue between the Egyptian and Israeli Governments. Musa, who refrained from giving details on the matter, stated that the issue was discussed with interest during the president's meeting with Rabin and Peres.

Musa was asked about the problems before the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement concerning maps. He said: They were not problems but simple discussions, after which the final agreement was signed.

Touching on the Syrian-Israeli track, the foreign minister said that Mubarak and Rabin discussed this matter. He added that the president stressed in his speech at the signing ceremony the need to start negotiations now on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Asked whether there is a timetable for resuming negotiations on the Syrian track, 'Amr Musa expressed his belief that there will be Syrian-Israeli contacts on the matter on the sidelines of the current UN General Assembly session.

For his part, Shim'on Peres described the meeting with President Mubarak as very constructive. Peres stressed that serious attempts are being made to pave the road to peace and overcome the problems of the past.

**Mubarak Receives al-Faysal in Washington**

*NC2809063095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2350 GMT 27 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 27 Sep (MENA)— President Husni Mubarak received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal in his residence at Blaire House, opposite the White House, in Washington this evening.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Egyptian Ambassador in Washington Ahmad Mahir attended the meeting.

Following the meeting, the Saudi foreign minister stated that the custodian of the two holy mosques, King

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Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, instructed him to convey to his excellency his greetings and best wishes.

Al-Faysal underlined the importance of President Mubarak's presence and participation in this occasion, hoping the signing of the agreement between the Palestinians and Israelis will be a step ahead toward a just and comprehensive peace.

The Saudi minister expressed his country's hope that the other tracks of negotiations, particularly the Syrian and Lebanese, will witness a similar progress.

On the Saudi assessment of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the talks the two sides held in Taba, al-Faysal said that signing the agreement was a step toward a just and comprehensive peace and that it gives hope for pushing negotiations ahead on the remaining tracks.

Asked whether Saudi Arabia believes this agreement is positive, he said that this agreement is a step toward peace and hope and that it will be followed by other steps.

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## Algeria

### Government Welcomes Palestinian-Israeli Agreement

*LD2809213995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Algeria has welcomed the agreement that the Palestinian and Israeli sides officially signed today in Washington on expanding Palestinian self-rule to the West Bank.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry's spokesman said Algeria considers the agreement a step aimed at achieving the constant national rights of the Palestinian people, particularly their right in establishing their independent state with Holy Jerusalem as its capital.

### Former Interior Minister Assassinated in Algiers

*LD2809143495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Quoting security services, the Algerian press agency APS, said Aboubaker Belkaid, former [interior] minister and member of the national bureau of the National Organization of Mojahedin [Veterans of national liberation war] was shot dead at about 1245 [1145 GMT] today in Port Said Square, Algiers.

### Prime Minister Condemns Act

*LD2809164095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Following the cowardly assassination of Aboubaker Belkaid this afternoon, Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi condemned and denounced in the most energetic manner this unjustified aggression against a man who devoted his life to the service of his country, and who always worked for a democratic Algeria, an Algeria where everybody could make his voice heard without rancor or violence. A statement released to this effect by the prime minister's office further says that this act comes at a time in the history of our country in which all the Algerian people, mobilized against terrorism, is bracing itself to freely choose its own destiny. The painful and appalling loss of Aboubaker Belkaid, a veteran of the national liberation war, the statement says, will not prevent the advent of democracy in Algeria, and will not prevent the Algerian people from completely and definitively shunning violence, intolerance, and extremism. [passage omitted]

### Foreign Minister on Arab League Meeting, Issues

*MM2609110195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Sep 95 p 5*

[Interview with Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri by Sawsan Abu Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu Husayn] A meeting of the Arab countries participating in the Barcelona Mediterranean Conference was held at the house of the Algerian ambassador in Cairo on the fringes of the Arab League Council meetings. What was the aim of this meeting, and what were the most important results it achieved?

[Dembri] First, the meeting was held at Algeria's initiative to agree on a number of principles to be established for the Arab side to the Barcelona meeting and to establish the minimum extent of a unified Arab position on the numerous issues contained in the European document and the response to them.

We previously called for a meeting which was held at the level of experts in Algeria to study the European document concerning the draft general statement, and it was agreed then to leave the question of political coordination to the foreign ministers.

This is what took place at the house of the Algerian ambassador in Cairo. Our meeting was also attended by the Arab League secretary general, because we have extended an invitation to the Arab League to participate in the Barcelona meetings in order to consolidate Arab-European relations.

[Abu Husayn] What were the most important items you discussed?

[Dembri] Every country put forward its national document and what it wants from the European partnership for the Arab communities in Europe in the relevant political, economic, security, financial, social, and humanitarian fields and exchanged views about them. Now we have a unified position which we could put forward during the forthcoming meetings, which will be held at the level of experts in Brussels 4 October.

[Abu Husayn] It was noticed that Libya and Mauritania have been excluded from this partnership. Why was that?

[Dembri] We have asked the European Union to ensure the participation of these two countries and not leave them out. I was entrusted, by the participating Arab group, with the task of contacting the Spanish foreign minister, in his capacity as president of the European Union, to submit to him the collective Arab proposals.

[Abu Husayn] What were the Arab observations concerning the European document?

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[Dembri] That it should take into consideration the national interests of the participating countries in a manner compatible with their concepts, particularly in the economic field, in addition to the status of the Arab communities in the European countries, a matter which comes under the heading of social and humanitarian cooperation, so that not all Arab citizens are dealt with as though they belong to fundamentalist groups and participate in acts of terrorism when in fact they are merely ordinary citizens who have no connection whatsoever with such acts, and vica versa.

[Abu Husayn] Then there is concentration on cooperation in the security field particularly with regard to Algeria and its relations with France?

[Dembri] Yes. Conditions must be set right with regard to mutual security among all the European countries so that we may be able to avoid all accusations and also so that we may guarantee the establishment of a useful partnership.

[Abu Husayn] The Maghreb Union has met on the fringes of the Arab League Council meetings. What results have been achieved in the light of the union's faltering steps?

[Dembri] First, the meeting which took place is part of the Arab Mabghreb Union's tradition. It has become customary for us to meet at all Arab and international conferences, to study the issues on the agenda of these conferences, prior to our entering the meeting hall, as well as the new developments that have taken place in the Arab arena.

The aforementioned meeting has resulted in a Maghreb proposition of an Arab "gentleman's agreement" compatible with the challenges of the present age, with the first item in it pertaining to the need for inter-Arab reconciliation.

But we have yet not been able to approve it because the declaration of principles which the proposed covenant entails requires further study. Some of the ministers felt it would be important if the Arab leaders, kings, and presidents were to sponsor the planned covenant, so that it may be more actively pursued.

Pending this, we considered it necessary to set up a mechanism for resolving disputes akin to that of the Organization of African Unity, something which will enable us to achieve a measure of realistic Arab reconciliation and remove all causes of conflicts which prevent the realization of joint Arab action.

[Abu Husayn] Does this mean that the mechanism would put an end to the idea of establishing an Arab court of justice and bury it forever?

[Dembri] This mechanism will not be a substitute for the Arab court of justice. But in order that there is no vacuum in the Arab arena before the creation of this court, we have to agree first on this mechanism from the start.

[Abu Husayn] But it was noticed that a spirit of disagreement rather than a spirit of agreement prevailed over the ministerial meeting on this occasion. Why was this, and how can this be avoided?

[Dembri] Disagreements in the Arab League do not signify failure or inability to take decisions or failure to shoulder responsibility, particularly as the Arab League exerts huge efforts to preserve the Arab identity and bring about national reconciliation among all parties.

But at this meeting (104th session) we were fully determined to rectify conditions and isolate and categorize the issues on the agenda so that we can tackle them in a realistic manner. It appeared to me, in my capacity as leader of the Algerian delegation, that matters within the Arab League now require extensive political consultations, a study of the agenda, the presentation of ideas, analysis of the current situations, and finally the definition of stances before every meeting in accordance with the facts of reality.

[Abu Husayn] Is there anything new with regard to the question of the Arab League's participation in monitoring the Algerian elections?

[Dembri] The Arab League is now making preparations for the dispatch of a delegation to Algeria to observe the electoral conditions.

[Abu Husayn] But the antigovernment [Islamic] Salvation Front has warned against the Arab League's monitoring of these elections. Has Algeria taken the necessary steps to ensure the safety of the Arab [and] international observers?

[Dembri] We have no knowledge of such a warning. However, Algeria is fully responsible on both the official and public levels for the safety of the international and Arab observers. On our part, we will provide them with all the necessary concern.

[Abu Husayn] What is the current preelection security situation?

[Dembri] Things have begun to move calmly despite the occurrence of a limited number of acts of terrorism. But the Algerian people attach great importance to the stability of the situation. Each one, acting from his own position, performs his role taking into consideration the fact that terrorism will not prevent him from shouldering his responsibility in the service of the nation.

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[Abu Husayn] But some of the presidential candidates have criticized the limited period set for securing the necessary signatures for nomination?

[Dembri] These are mere flimsy excuses. The set time is sufficient and these people have until the end of the month to do so, when the official nominations coupled with the necessary signatures would have to be submitted.

[Abu Husayn] What about the difficulties the opposition parties have been creating to curtail the chances of victory for by President Zeroual?

[Dembri] The actions of the opposition parties are of no importance to us, particularly if these groups fail to take into consideration Algeria's afflictions and fail to join us in shouldering responsibility. These groups are directing these obstacles toward internal rather than external public opinion, and they will have no effect on us at all. The 16 November elections will settle matters, particularly as there are over 20 candidates and the state has taken all the necessary steps and given all the necessary guarantees affirming the government's intention to ensure the holding of honest elections, the isolation of problems, and the opportunity for victory by the person most capable of administering the country during the coming period.

### FIS Founding Member Comments on Elections

*LD2509132195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Ahmed Merani, a founding member of the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], has started a visit to Canada to explain the true nature of the situation in Algeria.

Shaykh Merani was the guest of the "L'Opera" program on Canadian Radio and made a statement that was published by LA PRESSE newspaper. He said the real culprit of this catastrophe is Abassi Madani alongside Ali Belhadj. He confirmed that he is still in contact and holds discussions with most of the founding members of the banned party. He added that those members were not detained nor harassed by the Algerian authorities and that they have forgiven people who rejected what Abassi Madani and the others did.

LA PRESSE pointed out that the 16 November elections are one of the solutions that might deliver the country from the crisis from which it has been suffering. Mr. Merani made clear that in every democratic system, elections should be conducted and people's opinions should be decisively determined and that there is no other alternative to running the country — here lies the first crucial phase for settling the problem before a legitimate authority, and the opposition has no pretext or reason to prolong the crisis.

## Egypt

### Musa Discusses Palestinian-Israeli Agreement

*NC2909071495 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 29 Sep 95*

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in Washington by Fayiz al-Miliji in Cairo; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Miliji] You witnessed the signing ceremony of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement with President Mubarak in Washington. What does this agreement represent for Egypt?

[Musa] It represents an important step on the road to a just solution of the Palestinian issue. It also represents an important move on the Palestinian track; it marks the beginning of the Palestinian government and parliament in the West Bank and Gaza and the Palestinian institutions all over the Palestinian lands and cities. It is important to us all and to Egypt to see actual and effective progress on the Palestinian issue.

[Al-Miliji] The presence of President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian delegation in Washington at the signing ceremony has special implications. What does it represent in your view?

[Musa] It represents our extreme interest in whatever happens in the Palestinian arena. Do not forget that peace initiatives, the road to peace, and the peace process all started with an Egyptian initiative. Hence, Egypt has a genuine interest in the success of the peace process, the restoration of the land, and eventually the establishment of the Palestinian state at the end of the negotiating process. The Egyptian presence represents this interest. It also represents the continuity of Egypt's pioneering role in the peace process.

[Al-Miliji] If we want to talk about what will follow the signing of the agreement, what are the necessary steps to guarantee the actual success of this agreement?

[Musa] The next steps should be the honest implementation of what was agreed upon. The agreement is one thing and its implementation is something else. We hope there will be no obstacles, no going back, or narrow interpretations of the agreement. The second thing we expect is for the agreement to activate negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

[Al-Miliji] The various parties concerned with the peace process—Arab states, the United States, the EU, and

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federal Russia—what are they expected to do when it comes to the peace process in the Middle East?

[Musa] They are expected to support the peace process and insist on implementation in accordance with the points agreed upon in Madrid. They are also expected to give economic support to the Palestinians so that they can rebuild their infrastructure and establish an economy that fulfills the needs of the Palestinians.

[Al-Miliji] Let us turn to the five-member summit and then the bilateral summit between President Mubarak and President Clinton. Let us start with the five-member summit.

[Musa] It concerns the peace process. It is a natural meeting to discuss the situation on the Palestinian track.

[Al-Miliji] What about the bilateral summit that will be held today between Presidents Mubarak and Clinton?

[Musa] It will be an Egyptian-U.S. meeting at the highest level. Of course, there will be certain points to be discussed, including the peace process in broader terms and bilateral ties.

**Musa Views Washington Summit, Taba Agreement**

*NC2809144995 Cairo MENA in Arabic*
*1410 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 28 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the five-party summit to be held in Washington this afternoon, grouping the U.S, Egyptian, and Palestinian presidents, the Jordanian king, and the Israeli prime minister, will discuss the Middle East peace process, backing for the Palestinian Authority, and the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

In remarks in Washington today, Musa noted that the Palestinian-Israeli agreements must be implemented thoroughly and all prisoners must be released. He noted that Egypt recently focused its efforts on backing the Palestinian position.

Asked about his view of future conditions in Palestine, Musa said: I imagine that the conditions inside Palestine are supposed to improve once the Israelis begin to withdraw from the cities and villages, the Palestinians start to feel their freedom, and they realize that the Palestinian government is their government and that the future is theirs.

Musa stressed that releasing the Palestinian prisoners and detainees is an inseparable part of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, which Egypt endeavored to conclude. This was clearly evident in the efforts President Mubarak exerted to make the negotiations succeed, he added.

Musa referred to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's remarks in which he highlighted President Mubarak's efforts leading to the signing ceremony, which the whole world will see today.

On the future of Jerusalem, Musa said it will be the subject of negotiations in the final stage. Any capital for the self-rule areas must not affect the fate of Jerusalem, he added.

**Press Reacts to White House Signing Ceremony**

*NC2809222295 Cairo MENA in Arabic*
*2056 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Sep (MENA)—The Cairo newspapers tomorrow, Friday [29 September], affirm that the second-stage agreement of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles that was signed today, Thursday, in Washington is a historic milestone along the road to establishing a Palestinian state. [passage omitted]

The newspaper commentaries center on this big event. Jalal Duwaydar, chief editor of AL-AKHBAR, in an article under the headline "A Demonstration To Support Peace and the Dynamism of Egyptian Diplomacy," says that despite the importance of this agreement, more important is Israel's commitment before the international community to implement it without stalling or delaying. This paves the way to a comprehensive and just settlement in the Middle East.

He adds: Regardless of any objections to the terms of the agreement and the views of the extremists in the Palestinian and Israeli camps that the agreement is unfair and violates their rights, it has now been entrenched in our way of thinking that the accomplishments of the negotiations constitute important steps in the 1,000-mile journey to peace and stability in the Middle East, as the U.S. newspaper BOSTON GLOBE says.

The writer goes on to say that the analyses of the biggest U.S. newspapers agree that this courageous act of 'Arafat and Rabin will in the final analysis lead to the establishment of the Palestinian state alongside the Jewish state.

Mustafa Amin in his daily column in AL-AKHBAR praises Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's steadfastness in the face of the various countercurrents in pursuing his hopes of establishing the Palestinian state. He says: The final chapter of the story of Palestine is not written yet. There are still many chapters to be written. What has taken place so far is the first chapter. After this come the rest of the story.

He adds that 'Arafat's enemies will not retreat or accept defeat. 'Arafat's success will only renew their

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steadfastness in their hostility and vengefulness. They will consider his success a national betrayal and will declare war once again. They will continue to be his enemies and will throw stones at the man who has led the Palestinian revolution for many years, during which all forces conspired against him, most countries fought him, and some of his own people mocked him. If he remained quiet, they accused him of silence; if he spoke out, they chided him for talking; if he stood up, they shouted at him to sit down; and if he sat down, they attacked him for doing just that.

He goes on to say that those who have failed to annihilate 'Arafat politically will try to eliminate with guns. I cannot remember any Arab leader being subjected to the dangers, humiliation, and disgrace that Yasir 'Arafat has been subjected to. They say that he is a traitor and an agent. They say he has sold Palestine to the Jews and abandoned the cause, that he has bowed to Zionism and knelt in prayer to colonialism. They have pinned on him every possible assault on his honor.

Under the headline "Egypt and Its Vanguard Role in the Peace Process," AL-AHRAM says in its editorial that by signing in the White House the agreement to expand Palestinian self-rule, the Palestinian issue has entered a historic stage during which the Palestinians' dream of establishing an independent state on their national soil will come true.

The newspaper says it would not have been possible to reach this agreement without Egypt's vanguard and effective role in the region. The paper notes in this regard that overcoming obstacles and promoting the regional success of the negotiations so that the Taba agreement could be initialed was due to continuous efforts by President Husni Mubarak and Egyptian diplomacy.

The newspaper asks the international community to back this agreement by offering economic aid to the Palestinian Authority and by putting extensive pressure on the Israeli side to implement the pledges in the agreement without delay or stalling. The paper says this is the only way to crown all the efforts of the various parties with success.

In conclusion, the newspaper expresses its hope that this achievement will be repeated on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, thus completing the comprehensive and just peace march in the region. [passage omitted]

**Brotherhood Lawyers: Mubarak Rejects Meeting**

*NC2809192595 Paris AFP in English 1927 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Sept 28 (AFP) — A group of British lawyers who volunteered to help defend 49 members of the Moslem Brotherhood [MB] in a military trial said here Thursday [28 September] they had been refused a request to meet President Husni Mubarak.

John Platts-Mills, a barrister and former MP, told a press conference in Cairo that "officials have refused" a meeting with Mubarak to express their "shock" at the military trial. "We were very suprised by the decision to try the Brotherhood members in a military court. Military trial is totally forbidden if there are no legal reasons," Platts-Mills said.

The lawyer, who arrived late Wednesday with three other barristers, two of them of Iranian origin, said they would request the presiding judge to allow them to join the defense team officially. "This is the first time lawyers come to Egypt volunteering to back a case," said one of the defense team, Muntasir al-Zayyat, a lawyer known for defending Islamic fundamentalists.

The 49 Brothers, whose trial began September 16 and is due to continue Saturday, are charged with "directing an illegal organization aiming to impede the rule of law and constitution." Mubarak ordered them tried before a military tribunal, which usually considers cases connected to Moslem militant unrest, even though none of the 49 are accused with planning "terrorism" or "violence". The defense team, already approaching 60 members, includes lawyers from the entire political spectrum, including leftists and three Christian lawyers.

The Brotherhood has accused the government of using the trial to sabotage the group's campaign in the run-up to parliamentary elections planned for November. The fundamentalist group was banned in 1954 but has been tolerated since the mid-1970s because of its official stance against the use of violence in its campaign for an Islamic state based on Islamic law or Shari'ah. But Mubarak accused the Moslem Brotherhood in 1994 of "being behind" attacks by Islamic militants in Egypt that have now left more than 870 people dead in three years.

## Mauritania

**Algerian Prime Minister Tours Industrial Projects**

*LD2609220795 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi today ended his three-day official visit to Mauritania, during which he held talks with senior Mauritanian officials and inspected a number of joint industrial projects in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou. The visit culminated in the release of a joint communique that focused on future cooperation, particularly in the sphere of trade and the implementation of the Maghreban

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Agreement. More details on the results of the visit from our correspondent, who is returning from Nouakchott, Zein Elabidine Bouaacha.

[Bouaacha] On the last day of his visit to Mauritania, the head of government continued his visit with his Mauritanian counterpart to joint enterprises in Nouakchott, where the hydrocarbon sector occupies an important place with the presence of the NEFTAL enterprise in the refining and distribution of petroleum and the bottling of Butane gas. Mauritania lacks oil resources and imports its oil from Algeria.

The Mauritanian national natural gas company (SOMGAS) was founded in 1987. NEFTAL owns 33 percent of the company's shares. The task of SOMGAS is to bottle and distribute Butane for internal use.

NEFTAL's activity in the sphere of petroleum here is more important than in the sphere of natural gas. After the British Parliament's decision to sell 51 percent of shares in the Algerian hydrocarbon sector, a mixed Algerian-Mauritanian company called NAFTEC was formed. It is managed by Algerian personnel.

NAFTEC distributes refined petroleum products from Nouadhibou refinery in Mauritania and covers 40 percent of the internal market requirements. NAFTEC has to compete with French companies in Mauritania. Consequently, NAFTEC is facing a financial deficit due to the price structure determined by the Mauritanian state.

A significant part of the marketing of petroleum products is done at Sadaqah de l'Amite port, the most important in Mauritania and renowned for trade activity — 90 percent of the country's imports are handled at this port.

While at NAFTEC's gasoline station, Mokdad Sifi and Mauritanian Prime Minister Sidi Mohamed Ould Boubacar assessed the result of the visit.

[Begin recording] [Sifi] Economic and trade activities left me with the conviction that good achievements have been made in Mauritania, which are a source of pride and pleasure. We consider the Nouakchott port as an important achievement that yields good returns. SONGAS is a profit-making company with returns that are invested within the company and help it to expand. [passage omitted: Other companies have had difficulties in the past but are recovering, general reference to economic and trade cooperation]

[Boubacar] This visit is an honor for us, and an opportunity for the two delegations to learn about achievements in the sphere of cooperation; various economic spheres such as energy, fisheries, and other areas. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Bouaacha] At the Palace of Conferences, a last private meeting between the heads of the two delegations was held to discuss the joint communique, which noted the availability of wide prospects for bolstering and diversifying cooperation. The two sides agreed to hold the 11th session of the greater joint commission for cooperation in Nouakchott in December.

## Morocco

### Ambassador Meets 'Arafat, Conveys Credentials

*LD2809142295 Rabat MAP in English 1316 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tunis, Sep 28 (MAP) — Moroccan Ambassador in Tunis Abdelkader Benselimane conveyed Tuesday [26 September] to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, during the latter's brief visit to Tunisia, his credentials as Morocco's ambassador to Palestine.

During the ceremony, the Palestinian president reviewed with the Moroccan diplomat the brotherly ties binding the two countries and highlighted the steady assistance granted by Morocco to the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian president voiced on the occasion his deep gratitude to King Hassan II, acting chairman of the Al-Quds [Jerusalem] Committee, for his tireless efforts to defend the Palestinian cause on the regional and international scenes.

After the signature of the PLO-Israeli peace deal in Washington September 1993 and the return of Yasir 'Arafat to the Palestinian autonomous zones, King Hassan II named Colonel Major Abdesslam Sinaceur head of Morocco's liaison bureau in self-ruled Gaza.

### Iraqi Envoy Delivers Invitations for Referendum

*JN2809203095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1412 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabat, 28 Sep (INA)—Dr. Nadim Ahmad al-Yasin, Iraq's ambassador to Morocco, today met with Mohamed Tensar, secretary general of the Moroccan Popular Movement.

During the meeting, the ambassador delivered a letter from 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council and head of the Higher Commission Supervising the General Popular Referendum, inviting Tensar to attend the referendum.

On behalf of his party and its deputies in the Moroccan Parliament, Tensar welcomed this invitation and expressed solidarity with the Iraqi people regarding the call to lift the unjust blockade imposed on them and to end their suffering as a result of the blockade.

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It is noteworthy that in the past few days the Iraqi ambassador to Morocco delivered similar invitations to a number of other Moroccan party leaders and political and media personalities to attend the referendum and acquaint themselves with the widest democratic experience Iraq will witness on 15 October.

## Sudan

### Assembly Speaker: Ties to Iran Will Remain Intact

*LD2809224895 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, Sept. 28, IRNA — Speaker of Sudan's National Assembly announced on Thursday [28 September] that his country's strategic ties to Iran will remain intact despite U.S. opposition. Muhamad Amin Khalifah in an interview here with IRNA correspondent said, "according to Islamic teachings, it is incumbent on us as Islamic countries to expand bilateral ties with a view to upgrading common interests."

Referring to U.S. accusations against Iran and Sudan on the alleged support for terrorism, the Sudanese official said Washington is incapable of differentiating Islamic activities from terrorism and repeats its claims in incomprehensive statements. He added that Islam is against violence and invites Muslims to converse with their enemies and puts special emphasis on respect for good international relations and human rights.

He rejected the present compromising peace talks with Israel which he referred to as a terrorist and usurper regime. He stressed Sudan's support for the legitimate rights of Muslims including their right vis-a-vis the holy al-Quds [Jerusalem].

Touching on the tension in Sudan-Egypt relations, the Sudanese speaker said that the main reason lies in ideological differences between the two countries. The Sudanese system is based on Islamic laws while the Egyptian system is a secular one, he added. On the recent crisis in Sudan's relations with Ethiopia, Muhammad Amin Khalifah attributed it to foreign pressures on Ethiopia to condemn Sudan for the recent assassination attempt against Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa.

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## Kuwait

### Interview With Foreign Minister al-Sa'id

*95AE0071A Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic*
*1 Sep 95 pp 36-37*

[Interview with Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad by Sana' al-Sa'id in Kuwait; date not given: "U.S. Moves in the Region Justified, Not Only for Kuwait's Sake"—first two paragraphs are AL-MUSAWWAR introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, spoke to AL-MUSAWWAR about recent developments in the region after the flight of Saddam's two sons-in-law to Jordan, U.S.-Kuwaiti military maneuvers ("Essential Work") that are to last three months, and King Husayn's speech, which political circles here saw as a first step toward cutting ties with Saddam's regime. He stated that the door was open to supplying Jordan with Kuwaiti oil if Iraqi supplies were cut off. He indicated that he would meet the Jordanian foreign minister next month in Cairo and that Kuwait would participate in the economic conference to be held in Amman in October.

He said that recent U.S. moves in the region were justified and were not for Kuwait's sake, particularly after the revelation that Iraq had been planning a new attack on Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. He expressed his anxiety that Iran might try to obtain nuclear weapons.

[al-Sa'id] In light of recent developments following the flight of the Iraqi president's two sons-in-law, do you think there is any justification for all these U.S. moves?

[Al-Ahmad] First, the U.S. moves you are talking about were not for Kuwait's sake alone. They were for Jordan, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. They all occurred after Husayn Kamil took refuge in Jordan and after his revelations. You know, the importance of the matter for them and for us is because our goal is the same: that Iraq's people get rid of their regime, which has kept them from meeting their brothers in the Arab world and prevented them from having any international contacts. What we wanted to stress was that all these recent moves in the region were not so much military as political, there having been mutual consultations among us. At the same time, they were something about which we had to be cautious, particularly as we are dealing with a regime that is quite irrational. This was proved by the recent revelation of plans to attack Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. It, therefore, behooved us to take precautions and be very careful about any moves that might occur. However, we have now become certain that there is no Iraqi movement within the 32d parallel.

[Al-Sa'id] Hasn't the United States fallen into a contradiction? At first, it leaned toward magnifying the matter and stressing that there were Iraqi military concentrations. Soon, however, it retreated and stated that there were no Iraqi concentrations.

[Al-Ahmad] We said from the beginning that there were no Iraqi concentrations. We relied in this on U.S. information and on the information we had.

The U.S. steps were precautionary, particularly as statements coming even from Iraqi refugees affirmed that last October's plan aimed at overrunning Kuwait and the eastern region of Saudi Arabia.

[Al-Sa'id] The United States is said to be playing a large role in inciting disagreements between neighbors in the Arab region generally and in the Gulf specifically, using various methods for the sake of oil revenues.

[Al-Ahmad] I wish to state that I cannot serve oil as a food, to eat it or keep it. Oil is a commodity that I always hope to sell. We should not disagree about the subject. As for what is being said about the United States' working to stir up inter-Arab disagreements, I can only reply with a proverb that people in Lebanon use: "When there is a problem, people say the Italians are to blame." I say that neither the United States nor anyone else can work to incite disagreements among the Arab states. Our disagreements unfortunately are our own fault, not the work of anyone from outside.

[Al-Sa'id] Some say that the United States dictates what it wants to Kuwait and that Kuwait carries it out lock, stock, and barrel—so that if the United States commanded Kuwait today to make peace with Iraq, it would.

[Al-Ahmad] I hope it will be said that the United States commanded something and we said yes. I do not think that the United States really accepts any country's dealing with it in this way. The United States does not dictate anything to us and exerts no pressure on us.

[Al-Sa'id] To what extent can one say that the repercussions of the Gulf war have begun to recede?

[Al-Ahmad] We hope that all the repercussions are on the way to receding. However, as long as the regime in Iraq continues, its neighbors will remain uneasy, and so there will be no sort of stability.

[Al-Sa'id] Do the current developments in the region as you presently assess them really herald the collapse of the present Iraqi regime?

[Al-Ahmad] As regards the Iraqi regime, the shock to Iraq's ruling family will work in turn to cause a kind of shaking of confidence in the regime among the people.

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However, I say that our job is not to remove or preserve a regime; that is the job of Iraq's people themselves.

I think that what happened recently will shake confidence in the regime. As we experience Iraqi people's sufferings with them, we hope that the causes that have distanced them from their brothers will cease. Thus, they will rejoin our Arab nation and carry on their international relations.

[Al-Sa'id] What are Kuwait's conditions for rapprochement with Jordan and Yemen?

[Al-Ahmad] There are no conditions. We have not even asked anybody to apologize. All that is required of our fellow officials in Yemen and Jordan is that they demand that Iraq carry out the relevant Security Council resolutions, return the captives and hostages, and return Kuwait's property. I think the matter was understood from the speech of His Highness the Emir in the National Assembly. So there are no conditions. The matter is one of international legitimacy by which all must abide.

[Al-Sa'id] It has been said that a Kuwaiti delegation will soon go to Jordan.

[Al-Ahmad] We do not intend to send a delegation to Jordan, but we will meet some Jordanian officials, such as the Jordanian foreign minister, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, next month in connection with the Arab League meetings in Cairo. My personal relations with him are very good.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the possibility of supplying Jordan with Kuwaiti oil?

[Al-Ahmad] The door is open to supplying Jordan with Kuwaiti oil if Iraqi supplies are cut off.

[Al-Sa'id] What vanguard role can Kuwait play in supporting Arab reconciliation? Do we need a new Arab covenant of honor?

[Al-Ahmad] First, the proposal for a covenant was the individual effort of the general secretary of the Arab League. No wonder; for through his history of struggle and social effort and his reputation for bringing the Arab states together, he is trying to do what he can that there may be an Arab covenant of honor, particularly after President Mubarak's speech in the Arab League. However, each Arab state has an opinion in the matter and has submitted it in writing. We as Damascus declaration countries have drafted a document we have called the Damascus Declaration document. It will be submitted at the Arab League meeting in September after it is approved by the governments. I would make it clear that our government in Kuwait has approved it. As for Kuwait's role in Arab reconciliation, I hope that others will play the role, because Kuwait was the victim—it was she that was wronged. It is difficult for the victim to do anything. The victim needs people to stand by her.

[Al-Sa'id] But Kuwait is said to be the one who is exercising a veto on holding an all-inclusive Arab summit because of her not being reconciled with Iraq.

[Al-Ahmad] Is it conceivable for us to be reconciled with Iraq? How is it possible?

[Al-Sa'id] Will the all-inclusive Arab summit remain on hold as long as the situation remains as it is?

[Al-Ahmad] Meetings with Iraq have taken place under the aegis of the Arab League and the United Nations. Reconciliation, however, is impossible. What is there to cause me to become reconciled with Iraq? The captives are still in Iraq's hands. My possessions have not been returned to me. Reconciliation will come when all these problems are resolved.

[Al-Sa'id] If the United Nations resolutions are fully implemented, will it be possible for you to become reconciled with Iraq while Saddam is present?

[Al-Ahmad] Everything is possible. We know that the Russians lost 30 million soldiers in World War II and then restored relations and dealings. Things change. Everything changes and everything has an end.

[Al-Sa'id] While on the subject of the Russians—Kuwaiti officials have recently been quoted as saying that Russia was behind Iraq's massing of troops last October with the aim of stirring discussion of lifting the embargo on Iraq and that this had had a negative impact on relations between you and Russia.

[Al-Ahmad] As the person responsible, I can tell you that it is absolutely untrue. What relation to the matter does Russia have and what interest in it?

[Al-Sa'id] No one disagrees about the position of the Iraqi president, but the issue is the suffering of the Arab people.

[Al-Ahmad] I hope Iraq will implement the resolutions of the Security Council. We sympathize with the suffering of the Iraqi people. When I say that we sympathize, I really mean it. We are helping the Iraqi refugees on the Iranian border and on the Turkish-Iraqi border because we feel it our duty to help the Iraqi people—as we help any other people. I hope the Iraqi regime will obey the UN resolutions, including returning Kuwaiti prisoners of war and property. I want to stress again that Kuwait cannot lift an embargo or keep it in place—there are international resolutions. The matter is the responsibility of states, not of Kuwait. We must not exaggerate

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Kuwait's magnitude and imagine that Kuwait is the one that can lift or maintain the embargo. As for the demand for lifting the embargo, we demand that Iraq first implement the international resolutions.

[Al-Sa'id] Are you worried about reports that countries in the Gulf region are trying to obtain weapons classified as weapons of mass destruction? I am speaking specifically about Iran, whom Israel has spotlighted and described as trying to obtain nuclear weapons.

[Al-Ahmad] First, we are worried by any country that possesses nonconventional weapons. So I hope this logic will not dominate in the Gulf region, whether it be Iran, Iraq, or any other country. It is not that I am against any particular country, but the Gulf ought to be free of these weapons, particularly since we have signed the nuclear nonproliferation agreement. It is a call for no one to hasten to do something that might harm us all and cause us to regret.

[Al-Sa'id] Next month you will resume talks with Saudi Arabia on demarcating the borders between the two countries, and you will also discuss border demarcation with Iran. I wonder whether there are any obstacles.

[Al-Ahmad] I wish to state that there are no obstacles between us and our brothers in Saudi Arabia. The matter will be settled very soon, God willing. As for our brothers in Iran, there are also no obstacles, but we will start after we finish demarcating the borders with Saudi Arabia.

[Al-Sa'id] Why has border demarcation come up at the present time as an issue that needs to be settled? Have any problems emerged that have made it necessary to raise the issue at present?

[Al-Ahmad] There are no problems at all, but there is an insistence on resolving the matter. No problem at all has occurred with our brothers in Saudi Arabia; however, there is an insistence on resolving the matter and a belief that we should get it over so that we can demarcate the borders with neighboring countries such as Iran. This is because the demarcation in marine waters has to start from a definite point. If the points are not defined with one country, it will be difficult to define them with another country.

[Al-Sa'id] But isn't there oil on the land borders with Saudi Arabia?

[Al-Ahmad] They will be held jointly between us—there are no problems at all. We state again that there are no problems at all with Saudi Arabia.

[Al-Sa'id] How would you describe relations with Iran?

[Al-Ahmad] Relations with Iran are good. We shall try to keep them good, because a neighbor ought always to have good relations with those around him.

[Al-Sa'id] To what extent is agreement on collective security for the region possible?

[Al-Ahmad] This subject does not concern me alone as an individual; it primarily concerns the Gulf Cooperation Council.

[Al-Sa'id] What about your participation in the economic conference to be held this October in Amman?

[Al-Ahmad] His Majesty King Husayn sent an invitation to His Highness the Emir, and His Highness replied that his circumstances did not permit him to attend. I received an invitation from Prime Minister Zayd ibn Shakir. I sent him a letter saying that Kuwait would be represented at the meeting, but we have not yet agreed on who will go to participate in the conference.

[Al-Sa'id] People are saying that the rush to normalize with Israel has slowed down, especially with the Gulf countries.

[Al-Ahmad] Before normalization, we are looking first for peace to prevail in the area—a full, comprehensive peace. There are Syria and Lebanon: when our brothers there finish settling the matter and arrive at peace, there will be something new in the prevailing situation. Basically we are not a party in the conflict with Israel. However, we fought and boycotted because of our brothers in Egypt, Syria, Jordan, or Palestine. When the matter is settled and comprehensive peace is reached, the boycott will end, and the way will be opened for a different situation.

[Al-Sa'id] What is your personal assessment of the course of the Palestinian-Israeli talks?

[Al-Ahmad] From a personal point of view, I say that neither the Palestinians nor the Israelis can run away from agreeing. But there will be problems because the Palestinians are not agreed and because the Israelis are not able to withdraw fully.

[Al-Sa'id] Isn't the Oslo agreement full of gaps?

[Al-Ahmad] In any case, this is Palestinian policy. We do not object to any party that wants to adopt a policy that accords with its interest. We are with everyone, no one excepted.

[Al-Sa'id] Apart from the peace process, I wonder whether you still have any reservation about the PLO leadership.

[Al-Ahmad] As for the PLO, I can say that my relations with it are not good. One need only mention the insults I

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have received from them. However, that does not mean that I am against the Palestinian people. Indeed, we hastened to contribute materially to help the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho with $25 million in the past year. My quarrel with the PLO does not mean that I am against the Palestinian people or against peace—only that we are looking for full, comprehensive peace.

[Al-Sa'id] What about relations with Egypt?

[Al-Ahmad] You can ask about everything but relations with Egypt, because they are better than excellent. One does not have to ask about relations as strong and warm as Kuwait's relations with Egypt.

**Ministry To Use DNA in Citizenship Cases**

*LD2809122695 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1354 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 27 Sep (KUNA) — Interior Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah has announced that the Higher Nationality Commission today adopted what is known as "genetic fingerprinting" which could be used to ascertain, accurately and absolutely, the authenticity of all the applications made to establish parentage or obtain Kuwaiti citizenship. This will be done by examining the applicants' DNA.

The commission has studied the fatwa adopted by the Ministry of Religious Endowments and Islamic Affairs Fatwa Authority that ruled the results of DNA tests can be submitted as legal evidence to disprove parentage.

The interior minister commended the system and its usefulness and indisputably extreme precision as well as its speed in providing test results.

He stressed the system's great significance in uncovering attempts at forgery and fraud to which some people resort with a view to obtaining advantages and rights to which they are not entitled. The most serious are those concerning Kuwaiti citizenship in view of the implicit threat to national identity. He stressed that he would not be lenient regarding these cases and that he would prescribe the severest punishment that would stretch to all the concerned parties, including witnesses.

## Oman

**New Oil Discoveries Reported**

*NC2809160695 Paris AFP in English 1536 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Muscat, Sept 28 (AFP) — The Gulf state of Oman has made fresh oil discoveries as it steps up exploration operations to increase its hydrocarbon reserves, AL-WATAN newspaper reported on Thursday [28 September].

The discovery was made by the state-controlled Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) in the country's central region and studies are underway to assess the quantity.

"The new discoveries were made in the PDO's concession and they are promising," the paper quoted an Oil Ministry source as saying.

Intensified exploration resulted in the addition of nearly 488 million barrels in 1994, boosting Oman's total crude reserves to 5.13 billion barrels at the end of the year, it said.

Oman is also developing its oilfields to boost production capacity, which has exceeded 800,000 barrels per day. Development also covers gas, with plans to set up the first LNG plant with a capacity of six million tonnes per year.

## Yemen

**Abducted U.S. Citizen Released**

*MM2809155095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Sep 95 pp 1, 4*

[Report by Naji al-Harazi and Lutfi Shatarah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sanaa, London — U.S. national Bill Spencer has arrived in Sanaa. He was abducted with a Yemeni citizen several days ago in Hadhramaut Governorate in Yemen. It has been revealed that the two persons who abducted them work for a rival company.

Yemeni Interior Minister Colonel Husayn Muhammad 'Arab has denied to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the abduction had any political dimension. He stressed that the U.S. Embassy in Sanaa has knowledge of the dimensions of the incident, which he said were a result of a business dispute between Spencer and Yemeni trader Zaynallah Duman, who comes from Ma'rib Governorate and has been arrested with another person. [passage omitted]

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**Minister Discusses Referendum's 'Success'**

*JN2909074295 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 18 Sep 95 p 1*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad (INA) — The Ministry of Justice has taken all the necessary measures to ensure the success of the general public referendum on the Presidency on 15 October. This was announced by Justice Minister Shabib Lazim al-Maliki, member of the Higher Committee Supervising the Public Referendum, in a statement to IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent Bahir Dawud.

The minister said: The ministry has taken the necessary measures to guarantee this experiment's success and sound legal procedure. It has recruited a sufficient number of judges and members of the public prosecution and judiciary in order to ensure a proper environment for sound voting and the appropriate legal guarantees.

The minister said he will seek the help of jurists in the other ministries as well. He said he has prepared lists of the jurists who will be posted at the different voting areas and centers. He added that the ministry will also launch a campaign of guidance and exchange of opinion to guarantee the orderly progress of the referendum, and to achieve effective order to enable every Iraqi individual to cast his vote with the freedom required by this pioneering experiment and to express his human rights and freedom to give his opinion on his leader. The minister affirmed that the leaders in the different voting areas and centers will cooperate with members of the supervisory committees in order to give a good impression of the joint endeavor to render this national political event a success. [passage omitted]

**'Udayy Reportedly Planned To Kill Husayn Kamil**

*JN2809202595 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[Report by Ahmad al-'Ani's; from the "Outside the Homeland" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Special reports from inside Iraq say one of the reasons Husayn Kamil fled to Jordan was information discovered by 'Udayy Saddam Husayn that Husayn Kamil was responsible for the murder of 'Udayy's maternal uncle 'Adnan Khayrallah [former Iraqi defense minister] several years ago and that Kamil received instructions to do the killing from Saddam Husayn personally.

The report says 'Udayy, who sided with his uncle and mother, would have killed Husayn Kamil if the latter did not leave for Jordan immediately. The report says Saddam Husayn and the rest of his family are continuing to liquidate their relatives whose loyalties Saddam doubts. A group from the special security apparatus has killed Muhammad Mus'ab, brother of Muzahim Sa'b al-Hasan, former commander of the Air Force; 'Ali Hasan, cousin of Barzan al-Tikriti; and Staff Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Zahrah al- 'Imari. Police launched an arrest campaign in Tikrit that covered relatives of Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Hardan al-Tikriti.

On another level, authorities are continuing to sell Husayn Kamil's property in Karkuk and other governorates and are arresting anyone who has any connection with him. In this regard, the report said that during a bawdy party held for him, 'Udayy Saddam Husayn killed singer 'Ali al-Jawhar and a woman dancer who also makes television commercials. The report adds that sharp differences are raging these days between 'Udayy, who is scandalized by his drunkenness, his false business dealings, and his thefts, which are on the increase, and by his brother Qusayy, who holds 'Udayy responsible for the flight of their brothers-in-law and sisters.

It has been observed that Qusayy has started to compete with his elder brother in his various posts, including the chairmanship of the Iraqi Olympic Committee.

**Operation Reportedly Destroys Jamming Stations**

*JN2809204395 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] An Iraqi opposition radio said on 27 September that a fighting group of our people last week attacked three stations used for radio jamming and scored direct hits, putting them out of operation. The opposition radio added that the three stations are located in the al-Taji, al-Rashidiyah, and Khan Bani Sa'd near Baghdad. The regime used these stations to prevent the voice of the Iraqi opposition from reaching our people's ears.

The opposition radio said that all of the Iraqi people are now receiving opposition radio after this successful operation.

**Expatriate Writer Views Implications of Democracy**

*95LH0257A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Aug 95 p 19*

[Article by 'Isam al-Khafaji, Iraqi writer and economist living in the Netherlands: "Debate With Iraq's Liberals on Democracy and Its Issues; Politically, Question of Financing Is Not Insignificant"]

[FBIS Translated Text] I once started a debate with an Islamist writer by saying that despotism often generates

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similar practices among the opposition. With this statement, I sought to debate ideas projected by this writer and characterized, in my opinion, by a spirit of despotism. So I was not surprised when this writer answered me, with an intoxicated tone, of course, with something to the effect that my generalization applies to a movement to which, he assumed, I belong but does not at all apply to his movement, which enjoys the blessing of all the virtues of democracy, open-mindedness, and tolerance.

This answer alone was enough to demonstrate what I had sought to demonstrate, namely that victims of despotism retreat to their shells and form ironclad movements because of reasons for which they are not responsible, of course, but that are due to the terrorism that pursues them. Thus, they are inclined to form their own world that combines the movement members and binds them together through the common experience of suffering. This movement will not have a general significance attributable to heroic causes that distinguish it from others unless it has a sublime message with which fate has entrusted its advocates.

We are aware that the signs of this spirit of distinction may hide behind reasons that have nothing to do with mankind—i.e. reasons connected with carrying out God's will—but such reasons can emerge even in circles that distinguish themselves with affiliation to the material world of science. The proletarian issue and the message of the immortal nation persuaded many that they were "from a special clay" of men.

This is how separation occurs between a struggler and the world which he struggles to change. Thus, whoever does not belong to the struggler's ghetto seems to be hostile, of suspicious intentions, or ignorant, at best. The criteria by which the hostile world is judged become inapplicable to the world of the struggler himself because he has a sublime message that permits him what others are not permitted. Moreover, with his purity, the struggler is empowered to use compulsory means until he achieves his goal, and then he will dispense with these means.

Thus, the majority of Arab opposition elements, and I say Third World opposition elements also, were not aware of the paradox in their rhetoric: A despotic rhetoric antagonizing despotic governments when hostility to dictatorship was a secondary issue in comparison with goals such as toppling lackey governments and establishing nationalistic, socialist, or revolutionary systems of government. Even the slogan of democracy was modified and restricted with such qualifiers as "revolutionary democracy," popular democracy, guided democracy, etc. This democracy was understood to mean the freedom of the next regime and of its supporters. This paradox emerged when the slogan of toppling dictatorship and establishing a democratic society and a pluralistic and rotary parliamentary system of government became the fashion of the age and when opposition forces started vying so hard to bestow a liberal quality upon their identity that some of them became afraid to project any future economic-social plan so they would not be accused of seeking to restrain economic and social liberties in the aspired future society.

I will not talk here about Islamists or Marxists but about the forces that like to call themselves liberal. I will not talk to make accusations against the liberal concept but because it is assumed that these forces, weak as they are in the Arab world, are the forces that cling to democratic values most strongly. They cling to these values either because of their ideological makeup or because of their weakness, which is supposed to drive them to cling to principles that allow all to express their viewpoints without fear or intimidation. At the same time, this weakness drives them to establish future values that prevent anybody from monopolizing spokesmanship in the name of the national interest in order to proclaim other people traitors. To put it very briefly, my conviction is summed up in that Iraq is in dire need to reinforce a liberal democratic tendency, as it needs to develop a socialist and democratic tendency (or perhaps tendencies) that may perhaps contribute to breaking the intensity of the radical national polarization on the one hand and of the Bolshevik Leninist polarization on the other. Moreover, Iraq needs Islamist tendencies similar to the European Christian democratic tendencies so the politicized religious vision will be understood differently. This requires certain sociopolitical prerequisites which should not be discussed here. So, the debate is not with liberalism but with Iraqi liberals in order to find out the degree of harmony in their vision.

Again, where is the problem?

In monopolizing spokesmanship in the country's name, the ruler relies on the power of operation and of financing and on monopolization of the power of a legal and super-legal weapon of oppression (army, intelligence, security, and oppression by the ruler's party, ideological, and "popular" organizations). Consequently, the opponent confronts, or is supposed to confront, this brutality with a weapon which the despotic ruler does not possess: a transparent and democratic relationship, the promise of a transparent and democratic future, and transparent and democratic action. This is especially true of a country like Iraq where the urban population has become the overwhelming majority (72 percent) and where the percentage of the educated and technologically and culturally eligible middle class is close to the

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same percentage in countries such as Spain, Italy, and Portugal, i.e. advanced countries with a limited wealth.

Such a complex social fabric makes the democratic promise accountable, i.e. it requires the promise to prove its democratic character and not just by talking about pluralism and rotation. How is this accomplished?

Even the most ruthless dictators of our modern world have not denied their preference for democracy in its current sense, but they have all justified its absence in their countries by the presence of some "extraordinary" circumstance. Stalinism saw the blockade imposed by the capitalist world on the Soviet Union as enough reason to let social democracy take precedence until the people's awareness rose to a level that makes the people eligible to exercise political democracy. Saddam Husayn, in his discussions with U.S. Congressman Sanders and with Christine Moss Helms, the woman who promotes Saddam's image among the U.S. public, used a more convincing argument: "How long did you people in the West need to establish the mainstays of democratic rule? Don't we, under our extraordinary circumstances of war, backwardness, and a colonialist past, need equal time to establish a similar regime?" For a moment, one of the bloodiest despots of this age sounded convincing when he called his regime's leaders to discuss the issue of pluralism and of moving to a "constitutional" government in 1989, i.e. when the Iraq-Iran war ended. We know how those discussions ended, But do the Iraqi opposition leaders know this so they will subsequently know that they are dealing with a people whose political culture has been impoverished over decades to the point of barrenness? Perhaps because of this impoverishment, the people have become rather insensitive to the rhetoric of promises and sublime slogans and extremely sensitive to the current daily practices!

Let us take the clamor that has been going on for months about the U.S. intelligence financing of the National Iraqi Congress [NIC]—clamor which THE NEW YORK TIMES started with an article it published last April—and the way the Iraqi opposition has dealt with this clamor as a screaming example of how the opposition manages its crises, disputes, internal affairs, and its rhetoric and, subsequently, its relations with those who are supposed to be its public and its base.

To the moment these lines were written, the reactions could be divided into reactions denying the issue altogether (NIC Executive Council); reactions denying their knowledge of the presence of such a thing (al-Sayyid Bahr-al-'Ulum, a member of the NIC Presidential Council until he resigned recently); and reactions pointing the finger of implicit or open accusation at the NIC in its capacity as a U.S. protege (the National Concord Movement newspaper, and AL-MILAFF AL-'IRAQI [Iraqi Dossier] publication, issued in London). A chain of other stances, expressed in writing, have branched and emanated from these positions and have wondered about the intentions behind raising such issues and behind the pragmatic positions taken by veteran politicians. A majority of these politicians have spent decades in political action and have announced their resignation from or have suspended their membership in the NIC as an expression of their surprise at what was published by THE NEW YORK TIMES.

None of the participants in this clamor have dared raise a bigger question, perhaps because it affects everybody, namely: How have the Iraqi opposition movements managed to survive and remain active for years? I will hasten to say here that the intention of this question is not to make an accusation but to seek to establish relations between the opposition and its public on a minimal respect for the public's intellect, if not on a basis of the democracy they promise to give us when they attain power.

The Nicaraguan Contras, Angola's UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola], and the Afghan mujahedin—all of which are opposition movements that have engaged in their activities in poor countries and that, consequently, had smaller financing needs than their Iraqi counterpart—discussed their financial affairs openly. In a world where such movements use relatively complex weapons and modern communications equipment and when their leaders roam the world to present their causes, it is no longer possible to talk about reliance by these movements on "members' and supporters' contributions," unless such talk is intended for propaganda or for jokes. When the structure of the opposition movements is based on the fact that the majority of their leaders live in the West (including those who have left their homes in the West temporarily to spend some time in the homeland and its liberated bases) and when each movement has its paper or papers that are often written, printed, and distributed from London—not to mention the Iraqi radio stations in London and the cadre of full-time professionals in London and in Kurdistan—then one has to talk about the economics of perpetuating these structures without belittling others. We are not talking here of a gang of amateurs or of organizations of the 1930's and the 1940's which relied on family relations and coffee shop meetings or, at best, on (stencil) leaflets to present their programs and to organize their members. We are talking of plans and institutions in the precise sense of the word—plans and institutions that have their economy which influences their course and that, if you wish, have their own economic reproduction cycle.

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What is important about bringing up the financial issue and what is this issue's connection with democracy, democracy of the opposition movements and of the alternative they promise us?

I am glad that Dr. Ahmad al-Jalabi did not assign a writer to defend the NIC but decided to write himself. Despotic practices have gotten us accustomed to seeing the leader disdain writing. His task is to make statements, deliver speeches, or issue declarations. Writers then clarify the "theoretical dimensions" of the statement, speech, or declaration and the historical lessons that must be derived from it. In the article Dr. al-Jalabi published recently ("NIC and Responsibility of Political Forces"—AL-HAYAH, 10 July 1995), we find the following in connection with financing:

"A dust storm has been kicked up around the NIC to weaken its role and to cast doubt on its credibility. This storm has included the issue of NIC financing. As the official in charge of financing the congress, I could have always responded to these 'allegations' and allowed myself to be drawn into side battles and trials that don't serve our cause, but out of keenness on keeping all efforts focused on the main goal, not to mention protecting the Iraqis who have contributed to the congress financially, I have resolved to disregard these allegations."

With great respect and regret, I can find nothing more eloquent with which to comment on this paragraph than the words, "This is not how the goods are delivered, Sa'd." With such an influential newspaper as THE NEW YORK TIMES, the matter requires no more than suing the paper, which is a familiar step in such cases. However, the NIC's feeble response to the allegations was embodied in "making contacts with the paper to find out its information sources," according to the statement issued by the NIC after the report was published. Such a feeble response betrays a lot. Again, what concerns me here is not the incident of financing but the disdain with which all factions of the Iraqi opposition, not just the NIC, have dealt with this incident, which is a truly subsidiary issue!

Let us take a case that is close to us, namely the Palestinian resistance. Even people close to 'Arafat agree that the roots of his dictatorship and individualism are not due to premeditated ill will by an individual who started his life as a revolutionary in a popular movement. It isn't necessary to assume that the man had been plotting from the start when he justified his individual control of financing resources by the dictates of confronting the Zionist enemy. We are aware of what the PLO has reverted to now. Abu-'Ammar is still determined to deal with a political entity which aspires to become a state like an Ottoman sultan who carries his purse (in the literal sense of the word, as the well informed know) and loosens its strings whenever he wishes to whomever he wishes. This is despite the fact that the PLO has developed throughout one-quarter century institutions and some manifestations of pluralism. The Iraqi opposition cannot claim that it has developed anything like them. 'Arafat has sat atop the PLO leadership through his leadership of a movement that has represented the backbone of the Palestinian resistance, regardless of our personal opinions of this movement. Generally, Dr. al-Jalabi cannot justify his leadership accordingly. So how can the NIC promise us that the financing monopoly will not turn to a monopoly of the right of political representation?

It is anybody's right—and the right of Dr. al-Jalabi and the NIC, of course—to present himself as the Iraqi people's most capable representative and he might be so, but doesn't democratic representation require some modesty and some learning from the mistakes we have all made in the Iraqi opposition? More than anything else, doesn't it require that we learn from practices with which Iraqi leaders live daily in their exiles in the West? What would happen if an Italian leader decided to close the file of the financial scandals, which have almost swept away the Italian political entity, on the grounds that this file is a subsidiary issue that diverts the people from the "main goal?" What would have happened if President Clinton had answered the accusation that he misappropriated public funds by looking out for the intentions of those who made the accusations instead of opening the file of a serious investigation into the issue? Let us take the question even further: Why isn't the "national unity"—this favored phrase which our leaders use whenever they want to rally the people behind them—of Italy or the United States exposed to tremors when people find that it is their right, rather their duty, to discuss their officials' financial and ethical conduct, beginning with the officials' financial assets and ending with their relations with their secretaries? Meanwhile, our causes suffer defeat after defeat because of this widespread fear among our ranks of dealing with our internal maladies. This is because to us, every malady or weakness is caused by the conspiratorial outside world and because the disclosure of secrets—which, of course, are not secrets but common knowledge which Iraqis and non-Iraqis concerned with Iraqi affairs discuss in all their meetings—is sure to foil "our victories" and to divert us from "our main battle." Thus, we go back to Shaykh Imam's famous question: Where is the battle? He asked this question in response to the famous slogan: "No voice (or whip) above the voice of the battle."

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When a person presents himself as the representative of a crowd, not to say a people, he exposes himself to his voters. These voters are entitled to know his past, a present, his program, and conduct and who bestows upon him the right to speak in their names accordingly. Having elected him, they shoulder the responsibility of his mistakes. To them also belongs the credit of the victories he accomplishes because they are the ones who brought him to his position of responsibility with their votes and because their taxes are the source of his agency's livelihood and his personal livelihood. Since most Arabs are subjected to royalty systems, it seems as if democracy is an exception and a favor from the leader and as if despotism is the rule. What is sad and worrying is that our movements are also royalty-oriented and that their slogan is "I alone shoulder the financing responsibility" and, therefore, I am not accountable to you. So, what is left for a democratic Iraqi opponent to do? He can practice his democracy with the freedom to talk about the scandals and horrors of the gang that is ruling Iraq, about the homeland's wealth that is wasted, plundered, and squandered on personal ambitions without any watch or control, and about the citizen's terrorization and the usurpation of his rights! But even Saddam Husayn and his gang have a "central cause" and an extraordinary circumstance on which they can lean to justify their "refusal to disclose secrets about the enemy."

We are not demanding utopian plans or extraordinary acts of heroism. To make officials accountable to their voters is a western luxury no longer. It is a practice exercised with one degree of probity or another in India, Pakistan, and other Third World countries. The following question is not addressed to one Iraqi movement over another but to the NIC, the Concord Movement, and to dozens of Islamist, Kurdish, communist, and pan-Arabist factions: How do you present your people to the public? Who finances you? How do you manage your budgets? Don't mislead us by identifying your people with the homeland, Islam, democracy, socialism, or pan-Arabism. The Iraqi citizen who has paid with his blood and his dignity for the tragic consequences of objectifying the homeland, for making it synonymous with a leader, and for making the national interest synonymous with this or that leader's interest, is not supposed to fall victim again to the forgery that says that if you debate an Islamist politician, then you undermine Islam; if you debate a pan-Arabist leader, then you are undermining the "national constants," (which is another phrase introduced into the quiver by the pan-Arabism school). With this forgery, the only thing with which one is left is to debate and criticize one's self.

A final word about "protecting Iraqis" who finance the NIC and about field battles with the regime's forces:

The opposition talks a lot about field actions and field commands "at home" and about contacts with military and civilian officials in preparation for the decisive act. A number of opposition papers are never void of reports from "their reporters" in Baghdad and other parts of Iraq. We wonder: How do these leaders, reporters, and strugglers safeguard themselves? Why don't they demand protection? Perhaps the work of all these people is tied to one person for the purpose of their protection! Moreover, how can the opposition debate its action plans at home, even at the leadership level, if such debate is likely to remove the protection from those who are supposed to carry out the field action? A committee comprised of just three people (i.e. the NIC Presidential Council) does not know about its movement's financing because there is no trust between its members. Imagine how an officer in Baghdad feels when he hears about this scandal when he is required, for example, to convey his plans to assassinate Saddam to this movement!

As for the talk about fierce field confrontations with the regime forces, it reminds us in many ways of a condition experienced throughout the 1980s when the communist party elevated armed struggle to the rank of sanctities, thus causing the debate on the efficiency of those struggle acts, which were undoubtedly heroic, to split the party. This is because like the NIC, the communist party viewed the debate as a dagger hiding behind the mask of criticism and as a service to the dictatorial regime.

Let us learn from our mistakes. The Iraqi citizen cannot endure more disappointments. Let me repeat: If THE NEW YORK TIMES article has raised the issue of NIC financing, then the NIC has at least tried to answer the accusation. It is, of course, an unconvincing answer and it evokes concern over the NIC's understanding of democracy, but the other forces are not safe from these questions, which may be late in coming. However, if they are too late, then they will turn into explosions and splits. The Islamists faced such questions when the official in charge of the Islamic Revolution Radio resigned, submitting a courageous document (1 May 1994) about the course of the Islamic Revolution Supreme Council and about the cracks that had developed as a result of the absence of open financing. The communists also raised the financial authority issue in their fifth congress (October 1993). As you expect, the answers always were: a terrorist regime, our big secrets, protection of sources, and may you live a happy life.

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**Peres Suggests 'Jordanian-Palestinian Federation'**

*BR2809145995 Milan FAMIGLIA CRISTIANA in Italian 4 Oct 95 pp 60-63*

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Guglielmo Sasinini; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Sasinini] Minister, what are the major advances that have been made since September 1993, when the first declaration of principle on the granting of Palestinian self-rule over Gaza and Jericho was made in Oslo?

[Peres] The present situation in Gaza is much better than envisaged in the Oslo agreements, there is no question about it. The basic concept is that there can be no true peace in the Middle East until the Palestinian problem has been resolved. However, the Palestinian problem remains one of the greatest and most complicated issues of our age; mountains of hatred and canyons of prejudice have kept us apart for so many years. Nevertheless, the main thing is that the negotiations are now going ahead, despite the many difficulties.

[Sasinini] What points are at stake?

[Peres] An intermediate, not a final, settlement has now been reached, and it will be no easy task to stabilize it. Let us hope that a favorable atmosphere is created.

[Sasinini] Are you optimistic on that score?

[Peres] There are countless obstacles. In particular, there are several issues on the negotiating table, such as the transfer of authority from us to the Palestinians in the areas that will come under their jurisdiction, there is the matter of well over 40 ministries, there is the question of water resources, electricity, ecology, the army, the economy, and customs tariffs. Then the fundamental item of security will have to be addressed: There will be one army, not two: ours. Then the issue of the various levels of responsibility for internal security will be addressed; there will be one Israeli security force, one Palestinian, and a third, joint one. The matter of the elections in the territories and the cities under Palestinian self-rule will have to be looked into: The timing, the procedures, and how the mayors are elected will have to be established. For the time being, we have given up seven cities, and there now remains the problem of Hebron, which is more complicated. Then we will have to look at the various situations where there are Jewish settlements in predominantly Arab areas. Basically, our job is to turn an omelette into eggs, and it is obviously easier to turn eggs into an omelette.

[Sasinini] The Israeli settlers in Hebron have formed armed squads that attack the Palestinians at night...

[Peres] That is another problem that we will resolve. There are Jewish murderers and Palestinian murders; we have to put up a determined fight against all forms of extremism.

[Sasinini] Will there be a future Palestinian state alongside the state of Israel?

[Peres] I do not believe at all that a Palestinian state can resolve any problems. The solution is a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. There are very many Palestinians in Jordan who are now questioning the government of King Husayn. A solution must be reached rapidly, not least because there might be a danger of civil war in Jordan, and any agreement is better than a war. Be that as it may, it must be borne in mind that there is never a set menu for the problems facing the Middle East: Everything is always a la carte.

[Sasinini] Is it true that there are secret deals known only to you, Rabin, and 'Arafat?

[Peres] All the agreements have to be laid before the Knesset; there may well be secret negotiations, but the final agreements are always public.

[Sasinini] Do you trust 'Arafat?

[Peres] As he is the representative of the Palestinians, I trust him. If he were the representative of the Israelis, I would not. Some of 'Arafat's dreams are neither pleasant nor feasible, but we still have a long way to go.

[Sasinini] What do you remember of your first encounter with 'Arafat?

[Peres] I underwent a sort of trauma; there was a great gulf between us. Later, we got to know each another. Anyway, I always expect a lot of rows during the negotiations, but then we have to make it to a happy ending. There has never been any occasion on which I have thought that the negotiations could break down irreparably once they had got under way. There are no discouraging situations, only discouraging people.

[Sasinini] What future will the settlers have after creating new settlements over recent years on land that will come under Palestinian administration?

[Peres] The settlers can stay put; the main thing is to change relations. A million Arabs with whom we have no problems live in Israel, so there is no reason why the Jewish settlers who live in territory governed by the Palestinians cannot live in peace.

[Sasinini] What form do you think the future Palestinian entity will take?

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[Peres] There will be an economic entity comprising Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians, and there will be a political entity comprising Jordan and the Palestinians on one side, and ourselves on the other.

[Sasinini] What about Jerusalem?

[Peres] Jerusalem is and will remain a holy city; we will respect the three religions and will certainly not turn it into a Berlin. Nevertheless, Jerusalem has never been an Arab capital. Improving religious relations is of fundamental importance, and the agreement reached with the Vatican means an enormous amount to us; these are things that happen once in 2,000 years.

**Israelis, Palestinians Protest Oslo B Agreement**

*TA2809194395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] This evening the opponents of the Oslo B agreement carried out several protests.

Some 290 representatives of the national camp signed a statement of allegiance to Eretz Yisra'el at the Jerusalem International Convention Center. Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said the intolerable frivolity in which the concessions were made is a sign of a profound spiritual illness and those who suffer from it will stop at nothing. Knesset Member [MK] Netanyahu added that the opposition has red lines: There will be no civil war, but we demand that the government honor the right of protest, Netanyahu said.

A protest rally by the agreement's opponents has ended in Hebron. The participants were addressed by MK Ari'el Sharon, Rabbi Levinger, and Ge'ula Kohen. Large army and police forces kept order.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 28 September includes a similar report adding: "During the rally in Hebron, Qiryat Arba' Mayor Tzvi Katzover said that if the Palestinians are allowed to speak about expelling the settlers from Hebron, then Jews are also entitled to speak about a transfer of Palestinians.

["Qiryat Arba' resident Elyaqim Ha'etzni, head of the Action Committee for the Annulment of the Autonomy Plan, said that all right-wing activists should regard the Israeli-Palestinian agreement as null and void."]

Opponents of the agreement, mainly members of the Zo Artzenu [This Is Our Land] group, demonstrated at several roads and junctions this evening. Traffic was disrupted at the approaches to Jerusalem as well as on several other roads.

A riot erupted in the al-Duhayshah refugee camp near Bethlehem after local residents uprooted part of the fence separating the refugee camp from the Bethlehem-Hebron road. The security forces hurled stun grenades and tear gas at the rioters near the refugee camp.

An Arab youth sprayed two Jews with tear gas near the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem's Old City. Nobody was hurt and the youth was detained for interrogation.

An Israeli ambulance driving from 'Ofra to Jerusalem was stoned when passing through al-Birah. The ambulance was transporting a man wounded in a road accident. Our correspondent reports that the passengers were not wounded and only slight damage was done.

**Netanyahu Criticizes Taba Agreement**

*TA2809163595 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[Interview with Likud Party Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu by political editor Gadi Sukenik at the Jerusalem International Convention Center — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Sukenik] Mr. Netanyahu, the opposition parties have convened a gathering in this hall to protest the signing ceremony this afternoon in Washington. Is this the most you can do on such a day? Where are the hundreds of thousands one would expect to take to the streets today?

[Netanyahu] Why particularly on this day, especially as this is the holiday season? There will be other occasions and the hundreds of thousands are sitting right now, reflecting with pain on the situation. They will come out at the proper time and have their say, both at the ballot box and elsewhere.

One thing is clear. This is not a day of joy for the people of Israel. I am not referring only to the opponents of the agreement, but also to many of those who support it. The latter also feel that there is something amiss here. We would like to see real peace; a peace where people can travel home in safety. In reality, however, buses are exploding and 'Arafat is continuing to make jihad speeches. This is not a real peace.

[Sukenik] Meanwhile we cannot see a protest action. Where are the people of Israel, whose representatives are convened here?

[Netanyahu] The representatives are indeed here, and the Israeli public will certainly have its say. We are planning many actions after Yom Kippur. As you know, we are currently at the height of the holiday season. The important thing, in my opinion, is the feeling many people have of a need to proceed in a different direction; the feeling that it is impossible to make peace without security, with a partner who is refusing to cancel the Palestinian Covenant, and who is continuing his old ways. We also know that the continuation of the

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process is of decisive importance. The prime minister is promising he will not return to the 1967 line, that a Palestinian state will not be established. I do not think that anyone believes him.

[Sukenik] If you are elected prime minister, do you intend to honor the agreement being signed in Washington today?

[Netanyahu] Look, we believe that agreements must be honored, but this obviously obligates the other side as well. It is perfectly clear that 'Arafat has violated — and is continuing to violate — this agreement dozens of times. The last example is the failure to extradite murderers.

[Sukenik] The opposition leaders are slated to sign a statement of allegiance to Eretz Yisra'el here, which explicitly says the agreement is null and void.

[Netanyahu] I think that something else is written there, but this does not matter right now. You asked me what I will do. I will examine the situation on the ground, the behavior of the other side. I will be guided by Israel's interests, mainly the issue of security. This should be the guideline for all Israeli governments: Israel's security and vital interests rather than an agreement which is being constantly violated by the other side.

**Israeli Press Reaction to Taba Accord**

*TA2709192495*

[FBIS Editorial Report] All Israeli papers published on 27 September carry editorials and commentaries on the agreement initialed in Taba on 24 September. The articles generally focus on the significance of the agreement and point out the difficulties it entails, but with the exception of THE JERUSALEM POST and HATZOFE, which strongly attack the agreement, most of the papers carry generally favorable reactions.

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST publishes on page 6 a 1,500-word editorial entitled "A Palestinian State," which says that the secrecy surrounding the "Oslo 2" agreement indicates that "the government has made excessive concessions which it would rather not divulge until after the signing," and that the process that began in Oslo two years ago "inexorably leads to the creation of a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and the withdrawal of Israel to the 1949 armistice lines with perhaps minor adjustments." Rabin's goal of separation between Israel and the Palestinians "dictates the removal of 140,000 Jewish residents of the territories and the termination of Palestinian employment in Israel, and it does not resolve the problem of 150,000 Palestinian Arabs who live in Jerusalem and who can only be 'separated' from Israel if the city is redivided." The POST concludes that the implementation of this agreement "signals the relinquishment of Israel's security control over the territories and the assumption of such control by the PLO," with the dangers inherent in such a move to Israel's major population centers. "To expect such an arrangement to bring anything but unrest, terrorism, and ultimately war, is to live in a world of make believe."

Tel Aviv HATZOFE publishes on page 2 a 1,200-word editorial entitled "The Capitulation Agreement," which maintains that the agreement "contains grave dangers for the people and State of Israel, and even runs counter to the government's own policy, as publicized at the beginning of the negotiations. This is a document of capitulation by the Rabin government to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and his accomplices." The editorial argues that like the first Oslo accord, this one too contains many "holes" and "directly leads to the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. The intactness of Jerusalem as Israel's capital is not guaranteed either, since all signs indicate that 'Arafat will attain his desired goal of establishing Palestine's capital in East Jerusalem." "The day on which the agreement between Israel and the PLO is signed will be recorded as a black day in the history of the Jewish state," HATZOFE declares, adding that "the government acted contrary to the opinion of the majority of the people." It goes on to say that "in the Knesset too, there is a clear majority opposed to the agreement," and since the government falsely proclaims that the Oslo agreements are a natural continuation of the Camp David accords and the Madrid conference, it would have done well to allow freedom of vote on the Taba accord in the Knesset. Instead, the paper argues, the government exerts pressure on Knesset members so as to keep its narrow Knesset majority and to gain support for this agreement which "does not herald peace," but "tightens the stranglehold around the State of Israel instead."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew, in a 750-word editorial on p 3 of its HAYOM supplement, entitled "A Poker Game," states that "the Taba accord gives peace a chance without crossing the point of no return." To Rabin's and Peres' credit, the editorial notes, the accord does not create irreversible facts in three major spheres: responsibility for security, the fate of the settlements, and Jerusalem's future. "If the arrangement runs aground, Israel will still hold the key positions: the mountain ridge, the Jordan Valley, greater Jerusalem, control of the roads, and the settlements. The key to the future of the territories remains in Israel's hands." The editorial goes on to say: "The Likud did not manage to consolidate a credible alternative plan, since there is

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not the slightest chance to find a partner to the idea of granting internal autonomy to the Palestinians while maintaining Israeli presence in all of Eretz Yisra'el," while the present government has shown everyone that it takes risks and sincerely tries to achieve peace with its Palestinian neighbors.

Nevertheless, the MA'ARIV editorial is critical of the procedure involved, asserting that "the signing of the agreement at the White House tomorrow is a rash, unwise, and undemocratic act. The Taba accord requires the Knesset's endorsement, and the government is not guaranteed a majority in the vote. How will the Government and State of Israel look if following the festive ceremony in Washington the Knesset does not endorse the Taba accord?" The paper concludes that "the Israel Goverment should not have played poker with the signing of the accord."

In a 550-word commentary on page 7 of the same paper, entitled "It Was 'Arafat Who Insisted on Speed This Time," 'Oded Granot notes that the impression from the Taba negotiations is that in contrast to the Gaza-Jericho First talks, it was 'Arafat who pushed the process forward due to his realistic political vision "which told him that this was the right time to take control of the situation, to take everything offered by the Israelis, and to understand that what is not returned today will be returned tomorrow or the day after. After all, facts are being established on the ground in the meantime." The commentary says that while Israel keeps the security responsibility for most of the West Bank, 'Arafat has now gained civilian control of almost the entire Palestinian people, and that this means "full legitimacy in the area for the Palestinian Authority [PA] and an opening for a decisive victory for 'Arafat's supporters in the upcoming elections." Granot notes that the Israelis wanted to finish the negotiations too, but that while the Palestinians rush to strengthen the foundations of the future Palestinian state, "some of the Israelis still believe that another option is open."

In its 900-word editorial on page B1, entitled "A Ceremony and a Reality," HA'ARETZ says that the Taba agreement, "perhaps the most complicated ever to be signed by Israel with any Arab element," marks the beginning of a new political entity in the region. "If the Oslo agreement marked the ideological revolution of recognizing the PLO and its chairman, Yasir 'Arafat, the present interim agreement is an independent political creation that has no precedent. It translates this recognition into a partnership in which each side takes equal risks and each side has a chance to make gains." The paper says that this is not the final agreement and that both the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships will find their ability to neutralize the strong radical elements that threaten to crush them tested. Only the success of the interim arrangement can lead to the next stage, MA'ARIV emphasizes, concluding with a reminder to the United States and other countries that applaud its achievement to keep their word to provide financial support for the process. The paper adds that the ceremony in Washington is not "a free show."

In a 1,000-word commentary on the same page of HA'ARETZ, entitled "It Is Up to 'Arafat Now," Gid'on Samet points out that "never before was the fate of the Palestinians and Israel so interdependent." The commentary argues that the Oslo A agreement is not "a rose garden," and Oslo B will be much more complicated, but that despite terror, despite the doubts, "time has made the majority recognize and understand that a new reality is dawning here." The article says that the agreement was not the product of outside pressures but of "the deep internal logic dictating that its time has come." The commentary says that the Palestinians are beginning to establish quite convincing government procedures, adding: "They are managing to organize themselves better than initially expected." The agreement is naturally based on mutual interests, the commentary argues, but its main test will lie in "the ability of the 'Arafat regime to convince people, over time, that it is indeed capable of ruling the additional territory received." The commentary goes on to stress that it is largely 'Arafat's ability to prove himself as a strong leader that will determine the winner in next year's elections in Israel, whether the winner will be "the old line which was defeated in the ballot boxes three years ago, or the support for an extensive and absolutely necessary process which the Rabin-Peres rule is forcefully pushing forward."

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew publishes on page 2 an 800-word editorial by Sever Plotzker entitled "Wisdom and Its Meaning" which starts out by stating: "In spite of all the professional pessimists, the Israeli Government and the PA have managed to attain an agreement on the second stage of the autonomy. Rabin and Peres and 'Arafat and 'Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] gave an unprecedented lesson to all the leaders of the world on how to make peace. Bravo." The editorial goes on to praise Israel for managing to extract from the Palestinians recognition of the settlements' right to exist, and the Palestinians for obtaining Israel's recognition of Palestinian political sovereignty. It ends by noting: "The agreement initialed on the eve of Rosh Hashanah, to be signed at the White House tomorrow, is the best possible agreement. It constitutes a compromise between the desires and dreams of both nations and has satisfied the moderates and paralyzed the extremists. On tough issues such as water and Hebron, the agreement is

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based on the concept of joint sovereignty which requires a lot of mutual consideration."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew publishes on page A5 an 800-word commentary by Dani Rubinstein entitled "Seeds for an Explosion," cautioning that Oslo B's test will be in the implementation stage and "in the PA's ability to abide by the commitments it has undertaken, especially to eradicate terrorism." Rubinstein goes on to note that Oslo A succeeded in that it managed to work out a separation between Israel and the Gaza Strip, whereas "the entire entanglement of Oslo B stems precisely from the fact that such a separation is impossible to work out." Gaza is located far away from Israeli population centers, "and if there are problems or shooting incidents, this will take place far away. Not so if such incidents occur near Jerusalem or the suburbs of the Dan district."

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew publishes on page 7 a 1,000-word editorial called "A Step Toward the Permanent Arrangement." DAVAR notes that the interim agreement is a direct continuation of the Gaza and Jericho agreement "and is to a large extent even more important, because it launches the process of separation between Jews and Palestinians in the most problematic areas of Judaea and Samaria." Consequently, "if the solutions given in Taba to such problems as Hebron, the security of Israelis, and water fail, there will be no permanent arrangement." The editorial goes on to review the tough negotiations process, noting that each side attempted to attain the best solutions possible. Commenting on Hebron, DAVAR remarks: "The fact that a compromise was found indicates that the Palestinians and Israelis have gone a long way toward developing their relations and that their desire — at least that of the majorities of the Jewish and Palestinian populations — to attain a historic agreement and reconciliation overrides the historical hostility that has separated them." DAVAR goes on to praise Rabin, Peres, and 'Arafat for managing, through their deep personal involvement, to work out the agreement.

A 1,500-word commentary by Moti Bassok on the same page of DAVAR, entitled "Syria's Turn," starts out by warmly praising the Rabin- Peres government, saying "it will be remembered as one of the most important Israeli Governments, a government that has carried out nothing short of a real revolution in Israel in a little over three years." Bassok goes on to review the Oslo A and Oslo B agreements, observing that "Israeli rule over almost 3 million Palestinians in Nabulus, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Hebron, and 450 villages will end after 28 long years." Israel's strategic situation, Bassok writes, has taken a drastic change for the better since the pre-Six Day War period. "Now, after peace has been achieved with both Egypt and Jordan, the agreements with the Palestinians are another important component in the historic compromise between Israel and the Arab world. One problem remains, namely, Syria." Bassok believes that most people, both government supporters and the moderate right, sincerely hope the government has made the right move. "This public supports the agreements and wants them to succeed, but it is also apprehensive about whether the Palestinians will abide by them and whether they will end terrorism."

### Liba'i Denies Plan To Evacuate Hebron Jews

*TA2809142695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] This afternoon, a representative group of Qiryat Arba' residents met Justice Minister David Liba'i and asked him for the government make clear to the Palestinians that there is no intention to evacuate Jews from the Hebron area.

Minister Liba'i denied that some government members are only waiting for an opportunity to evacuate the Hebron Jews. He told the settlers' representatives that their fears are unfounded, and that the army and the police will protect the Jews in Hebron and see to it that all the parties honor the agreement and uphold the law.

This has been reported by our correspondent Ron Nesi'el.

### Poll: 72 Percent See 'Palestinian State'

*TA2809194095 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1830 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Teleseqer Company has conducted a special public opinion poll for us over the past two days on the public support for the agreement. The poll shows that opposition to the agreement has a slim majority. Some 43% of those polled support the agreement, while 44.5% are against it. The statistic margin of error in this poll is 4.3%, therefore, in fact, it is a tie.

Some 503 interviewees, constituting a representative sample of the entire Israeli population, were polled.

Answering a question on whether the agreement would lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state, 38.5% said they are certain it will; and 33.5% believe it will. That is, 72% of the Israeli public believe that the agreement will lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state. Less than 14.5% believe or are certain the agreement will not lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

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The next question addressed the issue of personal security in the near future. Some 37% believe terror attacks will increase; some 11% believe attacks will decrease; and 36.7% anticipate no change in the number of terror attacks.

Regarding personal security in the long run, 24.8% said that terror attacks will increase in the distant future; 28.6% said they will decrease; and 21.6% said there will be no change in the number of attacks even in the *distant future.*

**Prisoner Release, Redeployment Timetables Reported**

*TA2909061395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 29 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] With the signing of the Oslo B agreement, Israel is now due to release the first group of Palestinian prisoners, which numbers some 1,300 detainees. Qol Yisra'el's correspondent in Washington says that this will only happen after the Knesset approves the interim phase agreement. The plenum is scheduled to convene for a vote on Thursday [5 October].

Meanwhile, Israeli security officials in Washington were quoted as saying that the redeployment will begin in another 10 days in the Janin area. But military sources here stress that the exact timetable of the redeployment had not yet been set, and that discussions on the matter are beginning now.

Palestinian Authority official Sa'ib 'Urayqat said that elections in the territories will most likely be held in April.

**More Details on Redeployment Timetable**

*TA2909113695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 29 Sep 95*

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem]

[FBIS Translated Text] Security sources say that Israel has no intention of playing for time or procrastinating in anything related to the redeployment in the West Bank. Defense establishment sources say that the appropriate lessons have been learned from the implementation of the first stage of the Oslo agreement in Gaza and Jericho as far as the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] evacuation is concerned. It is feared that if the IDF redeployment in the cities is delayed, there will be an upsurge in hostile acts with extremist Palestinian factions vying with each other over who will carry out more attacks against IDF forces, thus taking the credit for their withdrawal.

Israel also wants to show goodwill toward the Palestinians by handing over the territory to 'Arafat's men. With this end in mind, the IDF is currently undertaking the appropriate staff work. As early as next week, Israeli and Palestinian working committees are slated to hold coordination meetings. The Palestinians want to bring 12,000 policemen into the West Bank. Israel wants this process to be carried out gradually in order to deploy the policemen on the ground in such a way as to ensure maximum security and prevent attacks.

According to the present timetable, the redeployment from the Janin area will commence in mid-November and will include the city itself and four adjacent villages, including the town of Qabatiyah. The redeployment will then be halted until mid-January. This break is aimed at providing the necessary time for completing the bypass roads, as well as for assessing how the Palestinians have handled the redeployment in the Janin area. It is possible that by this date the Ramallah and Bethlehem bypass roads will be ready for use, even if they are not completed by that time.

At that stage the redeployment will continue in Nabulus, Tulkarm, and Qalqilyah. It is estimated that two days will be required to pull out of each city, including the overlap period with the Palestinian Police forces.

The redeployment in Ramallah and Bethlehem will apparently occur in February, and the departure from Hebron will be left for late March. Israel will accelerate the construction of the Halhul bypass road going from Bet Hagay to Karmey Tzur in order to prevent the process from being disrupted by winter. The elections in the territories are scheduled to be held on 22 April.

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**King Calls On Jordanian Embassy in Washington**

*JN2809065295 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn visited the premises of the Jordanian Embassy in Washington where he met with Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, Jordanian Ambassador to the United States, and the embassy's staff.

His majesty stressed that Jordan is moving toward completing its democratic structure and giving its people the opportunity to lead a life they deserve, particularly in the post-peace era. His majesty expressed hope that the Arab citizens will have the opportunity to exercise their human rights.

His majesty was briefed on the work of the embassy. He gave his directives to the embassy's staff to work for fostering relations and cooperation between the two friendly countries.

His majesty was accompanied in this visit by Prime Minister al- Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Hashemite Royal Court, and Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, military secretary of his majesty.

**Foreign Minister Discusses Regional Issues**

*MM2709141295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 23 Sep 95 pp 1, 6*

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti by Jihan Faruq al-Husayni in Cairo on 21 September]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Husayni] What is the background to the remarks attributed to King Husayn about restoring the monarchy in Iraq?

[Al-Kabariti] I have not heard King Husayn say anything and I have not read anything about restoring the monarchy in Iraq. All I have read and understood is that King Husayn recounted the history of the Hashemites in Iraq. This history confirms that it is possible to have a national government which takes into consideration the interests of the Sunnis, the Shiites, the Kurds, and all the groups and religions in Iraq. The objectives of this historical background include the safeguarding of Iraq's territorial integrity through the concepts of democracy, pluralism, and respect for human rights. I believe that such issues, when addressed by Jordan or any other state, should not be considered as interference in the internal affairs of any state, but as respect for human rights everywhere.

[Al-Husayni] The Jordanian political leadership has welcomed Husayn Kamil's defection despite noticeable reaction in Jordan's streets. What effect does this development have on Jordanian-Iraqi relations now?

[Al-Kabariti] The truth is that to seek asylum is the right of any citizen, Jordanian or other. We are talking about principles and not individuals. The principle that governs Jordanian political behavior is that it is an open country and, historically, there have been non-Jordanian presidents and ministers in Jordan. This is an ongoing situation until today. With regard to Husayn Kamil's defection, I wonder why we attach more of a political significance to his defection than we would to the defection of the 30,000 Iraqis who came before him to Jordan, their motive being security and stability. No doubt, Husayn Kamil's defection has political connotations and has had an effect on official relations with Iraq, but relations on the human level have not been affected at all.

[Al-Husayni] What is the truth behind the disagreement between Egypt and Jordan?

[Al-Kabariti] I do not perceive a disagreement on the official level between Jordan and Egypt. There may be a misunderstanding by the media of what was intended in some of President Mubarak's statements. I believe that matters are being rectified.

[Al-Husayni] What about the summer cloud between yourselves and Syria?

[Al-Kabariti] I do not deny that such a cloud exists, has lasted, and entered the fall season, but we are seriously trying to restore our relations with Syria to their normal state.

Syria is very important to Jordan in view of human, historical, and geographical ties. The truth is, however, that we cannot relinquish our independent decisionmaking and policy, especially when this involves our interests.

[Al-Husayni] What are the reasons for the disagreement with Syria?

[Al-Kabariti] You must ask the Syrians that. On our side there is no justification or reason for any contradictions or disagreements with Syria. We started from the same point and it was the Syrian side that opened the door to the Madrid conference and started the peace process. I believe that Syria is still practically committed to the peace option, but it seems that the fact that Jordan has reached a balanced agreement guaranteeing Jordanian interests before an Israeli-Syrian agreement has been reached has sensitized the Syrian side. This, we believe, is not justified, but we honestly believe that the Jordanian agreement contributes to the peace process and would give support to the Syrian negotiators.

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[Al-Husayni] Is there still consultation and coordination between Jordan and Palestine?

[Al-Kabariti] Consultation and cooperation between the Palestinian and Jordanian sides are of a high level. There are contacts and letters between King Husayn and President 'Arafat.

[Al-Husayni] How do you envisage the future of Jerusalem?

[Al-Kabariti] We believe that east Jerusalem comes under the relevant international resolutions and that Arab Jerusalem must be the capital of the Palestinians. If this issue is going to be discussed in the final phase, we hope that the final result will be that Jerusalem is a symbol of peace between Arabs and Israelis.

[Al-Husayni] What about the resumption of Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations in the light of your recent meeting with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad?

[Al-Kabariti] We have started a dialogue that may not achieve an immediate result, but dialogue is needed. I stress that the presence of a Jordanian Embassy in Kuwait has a political significance linked to Jordan's recognition of the State of Kuwait within its recognized borders after the recent border demarcation with Iraq.

[Al-Husayni] To what extent have Jordan's relations with the Gulf states changed in general?

[Al-Kabariti] I believe that our relations with the Gulf states are now excellent, and Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister, will visit Jordan after the UN session in New York. I believe that matters are normal and that some people would not take the improvement in our relations with the Gulf states to mean that the importance of the part played by others is being played down.

[Al-Husayni] There is some criticism of the speed of the rapprochement between you and the Israelis.

[Al-Kabariti] I believe that Jordan's adherence to the peace treaty and the agreements signed after the treaty are points in its favor. We believe that this serious commitment will provide the basis and the climate for the success of the peace process, and that this commitment will provide help and support for the Palestinian- Israeli negotiations and for the success of the Syrian-Lebanese- Israeli negotiations, because it will reassure Israeli public opinion of the Arabs' serious commitment to the genuine peace option.

### Al-Kabariti on Amman Summit, Regional Ties

*JN2809052995 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 24 Sep 95 pp 1, 26*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo—AL-ITTIHAD—Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said that the Arabs will not be losers in the economic summit to be held in Amman in October. He indicated that no state in the region — Israel or others — can deceive the Arabs. He said that invitations have been addressed to all Arab parties, including Syria and Lebanon, despite their nonparticipation in the multilateral negotiations, so that there would be full Arab economic coordination and so that the Arab region would prosper under the peace process.

Al-Kabariti said he rejects some foreign ministers' statements that the Amman economic summit will be a meeting of businessmen only or that it will serve Israel's interests at the expense of Arab rights.

In statements to AL-ITTIHAD, the Jordanian foreign minister said that relations between Egypt and Jordan are normal and brotherly. He said that consultations and coordination between King Husayn and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak are proceeding normally. The relations between the two countries are positive and cannot be affected by transient crises or emotional stands, he remarked.

He added that the recent campaigns exchanged between the Egyptian and Jordanian press are unfounded and do not affect the relations between the two countries. He said that all press articles written in this regard express the views of their writers only.

He pointed out that his meeting with his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa during the past two days on the sidelines of the Arab League meetings was aimed at coordination on all issues, including the peace process and the upcoming Amman economic summit. He indicated that the summit will witness Egyptian-Jordanian- Palestinian coordination. He said his talks with his Egyptian counterpart were part of continued consultations to close Arab ranks and unify stands at all international and regional levels.

Al-Kabariti denied any Jordanian-Israeli economic coordination at the expense of cooperation with Egypt and the Palestinian Authority [PA]. He stressed that the bilateral projects being declared between Jordan and Israel are part of the bilateral projects agreed upon in the peace treaty between the two countries. Concerning the projects requiring four-way or inter-Arab coordination, he said, such projects enjoy Jordan's full care and appreciation. He said Jordan cannot dissociate itself from

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the triangle of Arab economic and political cooperation together with Egypt and the PA.

On his meeting with his Kuwaiti counterpart Sabah al-Ahmad in Cairo, al-Kabariti said: We agreed to open a new leaf in the relations between the two countries. He hoped that Kuwait will soon respond to Jordan's request to resume diplomatic relations. He acknowledged that some time is still needed before all problems are resolved and bilateral cooperation and contacts are resumed. He said that the two countries will have an opportunity soon to resume relations at the ambassadorial level.

The Jordanian foreign minister denied any intention to hold a Jordanian-Kuwaiti summit to rectify the course of their relations. He said: It is premature to talk about a summit. However, this has not prevented contacts and consultations between Jordan and its brothers in the Gulf states from continuing.

He denied all that is being said about cooperation between Jordan and the Iraqi opposition to overthrow the current Iraqi regime. He said: Jordan is not working against Iraq, and is not cooperating with the opposition. Husayn Kamil has requested residence in Jordan in his private capacity, and Jordan has no intention to sever its relations with Iraq or to overthrow the regime of Saddam Husayn. That is the responsibility of the Iraqi people alone.

He indicated that relations and cooperation between Jordan and Iraq are continuing. He said that Jordan will continue to be the open economic door for Iraq under the blockade imposed on it. He said: So far, relations with Iraq have not reached the point of estrangement, and we will not search for an alternative to the Iraqi oil. We have received highest Iraqi assertions that Iraq will continue to supply Jordan with all its oil needs. [passage omitted]

**Editorial Hopes for Quick Implementation of Accord**

*JN2909130295 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 29 Sep 95 pp 1, 23*

[Editorial: "A Great Achievement on the Road to Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a special and exciting ceremony at the White House yesterday, the Palestinians and Israelis wrote a new chapter of their book of peace. President Clinton, His Majesty King Husayn, President Mubarak, and representatives of the participants in peacemaking in the region were witnesses to this event.

His Majesty King Husayn summed up the meaning of this ceremony when he noted in his speech the physical and moral courage that is the motivating force behind the commitment of the peacemakers to a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace — one that provides dignity and security to the people and eliminates doubts and hatred. Thus, a new dawn will break heralding justice, stability, and a decent life.

In this context, the speakers at the ceremony expressed hope that a historic reconciliation will be achieved based on justice, international legitimacy, goodwill, and equitability. The road to peace is still long, as President 'Arafat said. His Majesty King Husayn pointed out that there will be no turning back, and that the challenge of peace must be faced despite all the obstacles in the way of peace.

Also in this context, His Majesty King Husayn has reasserted Jordan's commitment to making every effort to achieve peace on all tracks, especially the Palestinian-Israeli track. This is because the Palestinians, as his majesty said, are the closest to us, and we are the closest to them. They have a right to shape their future and to have their say to fulfill their dream for which they have struggled for 40 years.

In his inaugural speech, President Clinton voiced hope in the future. The Amman economic summit, which will be inaugurated by His Majesty King Husayn next month, will contribute toward painting the picture of the region in the context of peace.

The second stage of the Oslo agreement has returned a part of Palestinian rights to the Palestinian people. We hope now that the agreement signed by 'Arafat and Rabin will be implemented quickly so as to arrive at a peace treaty between the Palestinian and Israeli people on the land of peace, whose capital is Jerusalem, for two coexisting states. This involves mutual recognition of rights, primarily the right to self-determination. This will serve as a prelude to a historic peace plan in the entire region.

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**Hizballah Figure: 'Arafat 'Betrayed' Cause**

*NC2909080395 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 29 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Hajj Muhammad Ra'd, member of the Chamber of Deputies and chairman of Hizballah's Political Council, has declared that Yasir 'Arafat, who betrayed the nation and the Palestinian cause, continues to deceive his people and drag them from one abyss into another.

Ra'd added: The Madrid conference, the Olso agreement, and finally the Taba agreement have left 'Arafat without sovereignty over the West Bank, Gaza, or Jericho.

Ra'd pointed out that the Americans and the Zionists want to crush the nation and obliterate its identity. He said they want to alter the region's political geography, replacing the Arab and Islamic world with a so-called new Middle East because the Zionists reject coexistence with an Arab and Islamic world that is their perfect opposite.

**Amal Attacks Post in South; Israel Shells Border Area**

*NC2909072195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli assaults on the south and the western al-Biqa' are continuing. There were sporadic attacks on these areas throughout last night.

MATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondents have reported that the intermittent Israeli shelling of targets in the central and western sectors of the border area and Iqlim al-Tuffah continued until this morning.

The Resistance retaliated against the assaults. The operations room of the Lebanese Resistance Battalions, Amal, issued a statement announcing that one of its groups attacked the 'Alman position while the enemy was rebuilding the post's forward fortifications, which were demolished in a resistance attack on Sunday [24 September].

The Amal statement said that its Resistance fighters forced the enemy soldiers to retreat inside the post.

Travelers from the occupied border strip reported that the enemy forces have closed the Bayt Yahun crossing point and adopted stringent security measures in the area. The enemy post located near the crossing had earlier been the target of a Resistance attack in which the post's inspection room was destroyed.

Israeli fighter aircraft overflew al-Nabatiyah, Iqlim al-Tuffah, and Tyre and conducted mock raids, drawing antiaircraft fire from Lebanese Army positions. The enemy planes dropped thermal balloons to avoid the antiaircraft fire.

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**Radio Reports Washington Ceremony, Reactions**

*JN2909101095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 29 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington — Under the auspices of the United States, the Palestinian limited Self-Rule Authority and Israel signed an agreement on expanding self-rule at the White House yesterday. U.S. President Bill Clinton delivered a speech in which he called for overcoming obstacles and boosting hopes for peace. The U.S. President said his country supports efforts to achieve peace. He said: We will continue the peace process so peace will include the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. He asserted that his administration will do its best so that people of the region will live side by side without fear or conflict.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres also delivered a speech in which he said: Signing the agreement coincides with our celebrations of the Hebrew New Year. Our dream has become a reality.

Afterward, Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the Palestinian limited Self-Rule Authority, made a speech in which he said: Two years ago, we signed the Declaration of Principles here. Today, we are signing an agreement of reconciliation between our two peoples.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher also made a speech in which he said the agreement shows the tremendous efforts made by 'Arafat and Rabin to build new relations. He pointed out that the United States supports this agreement. He also stressed the importance of reaching comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev then delivered a speech saying he hoped that the remaining difficulties will be resolved so as to attain a permanent and comprehensive peace in the region and help everyone. The Japanese foreign minister also made a speech in which he spoke about Japan's support for and contributions to the Middle East peace process. The Norwegian foreign minister made a speech expressing confidence that an opportunity for peace would be available to everyone to serve the interests of the peoples of the region and the entire world.

Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez delivered a speech in which he reiterated the EU's political and economic support for the peace process. Gonzalez urged more efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace in the region. He said the EU will continue to support dialogue and settling conflicts, as a continuation of its role at the Madrid conference.

After the speeches, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres signed the agreement for the Israeli side while Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, signed for the Palestinian limited Self-Rule Authority. The agreement was then endorsed by Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and U.S. President Bill Clinton. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, King Husayn of Jordan, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, the Spanish prime minister, and the Norwegian foreign minister also signed as witnesses.

After signing the agreement, King Husayn of Jordan delivered a speech praising the commitment to overcoming obstacles and confirming goodwill, as he put it. He said he hoped that the march would continue after tearing down the walls of suspicion, fear, hatred, and confusion, as he put it.

Then, Egyptian President delivered a speech in which he pointed out that the challenge is not over yet, and that efforts should be geared toward implementing the agreement and building peace, which will not be complete without progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. President Mubarak urged those who hold the key to the solution to make more efforts in the next months to achieve the other side of peace. He said: We should not forget that what has been achieved on the Palestinian track is not a final settlement, but only a step. Our duty is to show all Middle East people that we have left the past behind and that the future lies ahead of us.

Yasir 'Arafat made a speech in which he condemned and renounced what he termed terrorism and violence. He praised King Husayn's efforts and valuable advice. 'Arafat also thanked Rabin and Peres for their efforts to reach this agreement.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin made a speech in which he said: Our speeches are being repeated, and our handshakes no longer set one's pulse racing. We are like old acquaintances, and we are happy for the reconciliation, but we are worried about any risks in store for us. This agreement will become a reality on the ground. We will not withdraw or leave, as Rabin said. In a reference to the suppression of the intifadah inside the occupied territories, 'Arafat addressed Rabin: Do not let the land of honey and milk become a land of tears and blood, as Rabin put it.

While the Taba agreement was being signed, sorrow and sadness engulfed Palestinian cities and villages in the occupied West Bank. The city of Hebron witnessed a general strike in protest against the Taba agreement. A REUTER correspondent in the city reported that it is difficult to find anyone in Hebron who thinks that 'Arafat's authority has reached a good agreement with Israel, which has refused to evacuate 400 Jewish settlers from the center of Hebron.

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In addition, dozens of Palestinian citizens smashed part of a fence set up by the Israeli occupation authorities around the al-Duhayshah camp to protest the concessions offered by 'Arafat to the Israelis. The occupation authorities opened fire and used tear gas to prevent Palestinian citizens from destroying the rest of the fence, which was erected by the Israeli authorities in the wake of the eruption of the Palestinian intifadah in 1987.

Most Palestinians in occupied Hebron were disappointed with the agreement on the expansion of the limited self-rule, because it keeps Israeli settlers in Hebron. Shaykh Hamid al-Bitawi, head of the League of Palestine's Scholars, said the agreement is a disaster that has befallen the Palestinian people. Al-Bitawi asserted that the agreement has not achieved the minimum of legitimate Palestinian rights. For his part, 'Ali Abu-Hilal, member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said the agreement on the expansion of limited self-rule divides the West Bank into separate cantons that have no geographical links. Jamal al-Shawbakai, member of the Higher Operational Committee of Fatah, said the Israeli settlers in Hebron are a time bomb. Bassam al-Shak'ah, former mayor of the town of Hebron, called for Arab action to preserve the Palestinian cause and safeguard Palestinian rights, especially since the limited Self-Rule Authority has relinquished the rights of the Palestinian people.

In the same context, Ibrahim Ghawshah, spokesman for the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement, said the second Oslo agreement is an extension of the first Oslo agreement and that both agreements relinquish the land of Palestine and the future of the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people. Ghawshah said the information that has transpired from the Palestinian and Israeli sides confirms that the Zionists are in full control of the West Bank, including land, security, waters, and major cities, primarily occupied Jerusalem, and have partial control over Hebron.

In a statement yesterday, Hamas and the Islamic Jihad Movement called on Palestinians to stage a commercial strike in the city of Hebron to protest the Taba accord. They said this agreement is the crux of the policy of concessions on the part of the Palestinian limited Self-Rule Authority to Israel. 'Imad al-Faluji, chief editor of the Gaza-based newspaper AL-WATAN, said the Taba agreement is an extension of the previous Oslo accord. In an interview with London radio, al-Faluji said the agreement has dwarfed the Palestine question and divided the West Bank into cantons. The agreement also recognizes the existence of settlements in the occupied Arab territories and maintains the current status of Hebron, which conflicts with the rights of the Palestinian people there. The agreement also disregards the issues of Jerusalem and Palestinian prisoners. Al-Faluji said the unfair Israeli conditions set by the Taba accord will lead to a deterioration and collapse of the region. This is because the accord has not achieved peace, security, and stability in the region. The agreement ignores the rights of the Palestinian Arab people. Al-Faluji added that the establishment of a Palestinian state does not require all the long and difficult stages stipulated by this agreement. The rights of the Palestinian Arab people are clear. He pointed out that Palestinian resistance to the Oslo and Taba accords will work to achieve the objectives of the Palestinian people, especially to build their state on strong, firm foundations to ensure their security and stability.

A general strike was also observed yesterday at the al-Baddawi and Nahr al-Barid camps in northern Lebanon in response to a call by the Alliance of Palestinian Forces and in condemnation of the Taba accord. The Alliance issued a statement saying that the day of the agreement's signing is a black day in the history of the Palestinian people and cause. The signing of the agreement legitimizes the enemy's occupation of Palestine, undermines Palestinian identity, and relinquishes Jerusalem and national sovereignty.

In Tunis, Dr. Samir Ghawshah, member of the PLO Executive Committee, said Yasir 'Arafat did not present the full text of the recent Taba agreement to the PLO Executive Committee members to study it before endorsing it. In a press statement published yesterday in Tunis, Dr. Ghawshah said his reservations about endorsing these agreements during the meetings of the Palestinian Authority and the PLO Executive Committee are due to political considerations. Dr. Ghawshah doubted the success of the new negotiations which 'Arafat may hold with Rabin after signing the agreement in Washington, asserting that Israel did not honor oral promises made by Shim'on Peres to Yasir 'Arafat in Taba on withdrawing Israeli forces from Palestinian territory.

In Arab reactions to the agreement, Arab writer and journalist Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal said the Israeli-Palestinian agreement was signed on the anniversary of the death of late Egyptian President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, and this is no passing coincidence. Sami al-Khatib, head of the Lebanese Parliamentary Security and Defense Committee, denounced the concessions made by the Palestinian limited Self-Rule Authority to Israel. In a radio interview yesterday, Deputy al-Khatib said the Taba agreement is a bad version of the Oslo agreement. He said this agreement does away with the hopes of the Palestinian people to establish a Palestinian state on their national soil.

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In the meantime, Israel has declared that it will delay the implementation of a decision to free the female Palestinian prisoners. Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman said: Implementing this decision is a problem, and we need two or three days to review the files. In the agreement on the expansion of the self-rule, which was signed in Washington yesterday, Israel pledged to free on the day of the signing a preliminary batch of prisoners, to include all female prisoners. However, not one prisoner has so far been set free.

**Press Critical of 'Media Hype' Over Taba**

*JN2909132595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 29 Sep 95*

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary published today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Peace is an integral whole that has its foundations, equations, and balances which cannot be replaced or partitioned. Peace should be complete. It should be based on the well known foundations of justice and comprehensiveness. If not, then it should not exist. Any attempt to bypass this integration will be a kind of unilateral action that will never live up to the level of the required genuine peace.

The paper points out that from the beginning, Syria called for a just and comprehensive peace. Syria's positions on peace have been steady, clear, and defined. Syria is confident that it stands for a just cause where right is crystal-clear and will always triumph, thanks to the support of the international legitimacy.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: Peace, as Syria views it, is about rights and commitments — rights that should be returned in full to their owners, and commitments in terms of security that must be shouldered by all parties in an equitable and balanced manner. In this regard, Syria has stressed the need to continue the peace process—but as President Hafiz al-Asad said, not indefinitely and without relinquishing our land, rights, and security, no matter how long it takes. Land represents dignity and homeland.

The paper says: In order for peace to be sustainable, it should be just and comprehensive on all fronts. This is what Syria has always sought, because this provides security and stability to all parties in the region. Hence Syria's unwavering commitment to UN resolutions and the U.S. land-for-peace principle.

AL-THAWRAH adds: In light of this, separate agreements offer only separate and deficient solutions that do not make peace, because they lack the elements of peace. All facts and events prove the failure of these solutions to attain the goal of peace.

AL-THAWRAH concludes its commentary by saying: All the media hype and ceremonial and propagandistic festivals that accompany the signing of every separate agreement cannot hide the fact that peace must be comprehensive and just.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: All the agreements and deals Israel has signed on this or that track have not brought about the anticipated peace and security in the region. According to international consensus, peace and stability require something beyond rhetoric. They need firm diplomacy on the part of the U.S. sponsor, and concrete and conclusive positions. Such positions should overcome the current deadlock, terminate the hibernation of the peace process, and ensure momentum for it on the Syrian track now that Israel has gone too far in its obduracy and intransigence.

In a commentary headlined "No to an Incomplete Peace," today, AL-BA'TH deals with the second Oslo agreement, which was signed in Washington yesterday. It says: Despite the celebrations held by the parties concerned with the second Oslo accord — which far exceeded the size and content of the agreement — a just and comprehensive peace sought by the world in the Middle East continues to be distant as long as separate solutions and partial deals are the overriding trend thus far. Peace will remain remote as long as Israel continues to adhere to this approach to settlement with the full determination to evade commitment to resolutions of international legitimacy.

The paper notes the U.S. sponsor's acknowledgement of this situation. It noted the statements by some U.S. Administration's officials before and during the signing festival on the exertion of efforts to prod talks on the Syrian-Israeli track. In this regard AL-BA'TH notes: The U.S. President renewed his commitment to the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace. Moreover, the U.S. secretary of state said he expects a new tour of the region. Dennis Ross also stressed Syria's commitment to the peace process, noting the wide gaps on the said track.

AL-BA'th maintains: In order not to waste these efforts and in order not to squander more time, the U.S. sponsor must actually focus on the realization of a just and comprehensive peace by securing Israel's commitment to UN resolutions and bases of the peace initiative.

Concluding its commentary, the paper asserts: The U.S. envoys' efforts will reach their goal if they focus on Israel's commitment to the integrated requirements of the peace process, and not on incomplete peace that is unviable.

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**Commentary: Signing Ceremony 'Propaganda Show'**

*JN2809165895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear Listeners: A contradiction surfaced between the scene of widespread sadness in the occupied Palestinian territories and the propaganda show accompanying the signing of the Taba agreement, which was initialed on 24 September. There is a clear contradiction between the propaganda accompanying the signing of the Taba agreement on the one hand and the siege being imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities on the occupied Palestinian territories and the strike being observed in the occupied Palestinian territories on the other. By this strike, people there want to express their anger, sadness, and rejection of this unfair agreement for the Palestinian Arab people's rights. By contrast, there is no contradiction between this propaganda clamor and the volume of the ink and paper on which the clauses of this 450-page agreement were written. This agreement is made up of 450 pages of extortion by Israel and submission by the limited self-rule authority. Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres summed up those hundreds of papers in one sentence. He said that the Taba agreement has given Israel all that it wants. Israel admits, if not boasts, that it controls 80 percent of the occupied Palestinian territories and 80 percent of the Palestinian water, and that the Israeli settlements imposed on the occupied Palestinian territories will remain where they are and as they are. This applies even to Hebron, which in February 1994 was the scene of the Baruch Goldstein massacre which shock the entire world. In the same context, Israel tirelessly reiterates that the movements of its army in the occupied Palestinian territory are redeployment rather than withdrawal, and that the roads which link Israeli settlements are in fact separating the Palestinian territories, turning them into fragmented and isolated areas.

It is realistic, if not necessary, to say that Israel is not alone responsible for the slide of the Palestine question into this abyss. The side that signed the Oslo agreement and then the Taba agreement with Israel bears the biggest share of responsibility for giving up national and territorial rights, abandoning coordination with the Arab parties involved in the peace process, and departure from the resolutions of international legitimacy calling for a comprehensive solution on all fronts and stressing the land-for-peace principle. Testifying to the deficiency of this agreement is the fact that the two years that have passed since the Oslo agreement have been full of tensions, confrontations, and death in the occupied Palestinian territory.

The propaganda show accompanying the signing of the Taba agreement will not mute the voice of truth saying that peace must be just and comprehensive. Peace must start with full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories to the 4 June 1967 lines. This peace, for which Syria is working, enjoys the support of the Arab masses and the international community at the same time. Only such peace can ensure all parties' rights and security as well as international security and peace.

**Radio Cites Ross on Progress Along Syrian Track**

*JN2809135295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington — Dennis Ross, U.S. envoy to the Middle East, stated that the hope to achieve greater progress on the Syrian track has not vanished. AFP said Ross told journalists that the United States has clear indications that Syria is interested in the Middle East peace process. Ross said: We are working silently on the Syrian-Israeli track. He said this effort will continue. Ross spoke about substantive and procedural differences between Damascus and Tel Aviv. He said: At this phase, we have seen nothing to indicate that Syria is not serious when we say that it wants peace. He added: On the contrary, we have clear indications that Damascus wants to conclude a peace agreement. Ross said: Despite the big gaps, we currently feel that these gaps can be surmounted by the right amount of political will on both sides. Ross indicated that there are still substantive obstacles that must be overcome.

**Paper: U.S. Needs 'Firm Diplomacy' With Israel**

*JN2809121495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Firm Diplomacy," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has urged the U.S. Administration to take a strong and more serious position to advance the Middle East peace process. He stressed that the Syrian track of negotiations will experience a serious impasse unless the United States intervenes seriously and strongly.

TISHRIN adds: Before analyzing the significance and dimensions of Baker's statements, it should be noted that during his visits to the Middle East ahead of the Madrid conference, he knew that Israel was not serious about peace. Prior to and after the Madrid conference, Baker ran into Israeli snags and obstructions. When he

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found out that Israel was not serious about peacemaking he took a firm stand. Driven by a strong eagerness to render the peace process a success, he asked the Israelis to show flexibility and remove obstacles and difficulties that were derailing the peace process.

TISHRIN goes on to say: Given the obstacles created by Israel, there is a need for firm diplomacy by the sponsor of the peace process, particularly since it pledged to play the role of an honest broker and partner, launched the peace initiative, and convoked the Madrid conference.

TISHRIN says: Syria, which has responded favorably to U.S. endeavors and paved the way for a just and comprehensive peace in the region by agreeing to meet the requirements of peace, still hopes that the United States will accelerate its efforts to salvage the peace process and end the inertia it is experiencing due to Israeli obstacles and intransigence.

**Al-Shar' Meets PRC, Other Counterparts**

*JN2909103295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 29 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] On the sidelines of the 50th session of the UN General Assembly, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met in New York yesterday with PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen. The two ministers exchanged views on the situation in the region, developments in the peace process, and cooperation and friendship between Syria and the PRC.

Al-Shar' also met with Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Mierlo. The meeting was attended by the charge d'affaires of the Syrian Arab delegation and the chief of the Dutch mission to the United Nations. The discussion dealt with developments in the region, the peace process, ways of enhancing bilateral ties, relations between Syria and the EU, and the upcoming Barcelona conference.

The foreign minister also met with 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary general of the People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation in Libya, in the presence of the chiefs of the two countries' missions to the United Nations. The attendees discussed Arab developments.

**Israel Accused of Hijacking Iranian Plane**

*JN2909073095 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 22 Sep 95 p 9*

[Article by Majid Mu'awwad: "Allegations of Hostile Media"]

[FBIS Translated Text] All reports regarding the landing of an Iranian airplane in Israel confirm that the airplane was subject to a well-planned hijacking by Israel for the sake of blackmail and with the hope of achieving political stands that would serve its policy in the region.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin himself confirmed this fact. He wanted to deny it when he claimed that Israel allowed the airplane to land for humanitarian reasons after Saudi Arabia and Jordan had refused to let it land in their airports, as Rabin put it.

Let us accept this Israeli statement for the sake of argument. If the intent was humanitarian and if Israel had nothing to do with the hijacking, as Rabin said in the first part of his statement, then the hijacker would not have announced his surrender to Israeli authorities immediately after the airplane had landed, and consequently, Israel would have allowed the airplane to take off with its passengers on board, keeping only the hijacker.

What happened is that Israel did not release the plane until two days after it landed following UN intervention. Indeed, Israel did not release the plane before it subjected its passengers to a thorough investigation, which no passengers of a hijacked plane that landed in any airport in the world have ever experienced before. This is considered a precedent in this field that has nothing to do with humanity.

If we look into the second part of Rabin's statement, we will find that Israel alone said it and not the countries, which Rabin has mentioned. This indicates that the airplane requested permission from Israel to land in its territories, which shows that Rabin's statement is not accurate and also confirms that Israel has preplanned the hijacking as Iran has said.

We must point out here that most charges of terrorism against Iran are leveled by Israel. Since Israel considers Iran a very dangerously terrorist country and since there is an acute state of hostility between it and Iran, should Israel have not made sure that the plane was safe and that it did not constitute an Iranian terrorist operation against it before allowing it to land!?

Many issues confirm that the landing of the plane was not a normal operation. All these issues are inclined toward confirming the Iranian accusation against Israel.

We must also highlight the fact that the grudge which Israel—as well as some quarters known to be suspiciously linked to it—bears against Syria dictates that it involve Syria in this issue without any justification. The only justification is that Israel is very annoyed by Syria's principled and firm position on peace, its rejection of the method of separate deals promoted by Israel as an alternative to a just and comprehensive peace, and the world's belief in the Syrian viewpoint.

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This grudge prompts Israel to level false accusations against Syria through its media. These accusations have only added to the resolve of Syria, which adopts well-known principled stands, to continue its march to serve its nation's issues and to champion its rights.

Finally, as everyone knows, Syria's stand is above reproach. Moreover, Syria is too noble to respond to these false allegations, which negate themselves and whose source — hired media trumpets that are fulfilling Israeli desires — is false.

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## Afghanistan

### Taleban Forces Narrowing 'Stranglehold' on Kabul

*BK2809134095 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Afghanistan, the situation around Kabul remains tense as Taleban keep their pressure on Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani to step down. The Taleban who control a number of provinces in Afghanistan have been demanding that the Rabbani regime, which completed its mandate early this year, must step aside to enable a broad-based representative government in the country.

Various contingents of Taleban forces have taken strategic positions around Kabul. They are in the process of narrowing their stranglehold on the Afghan capital. Earlier, they had given five days' deadline to Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani to give up power or face attack on Kabul. However, Taleban called off their attack at the last moment on the request of the residents of Kabul.

Meanwhile, Taleban sources in Peshawar said that a representative delegation comprising elders from various provinces has been dispatched to the Afghan capital to ask President Rabbani to hand over power to the Taleban. They said they would wait for the response from Kabul, following which they would go ahead with their planned attack.

### Iran Expresses Concern

*LD2809185595 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has expressed serious concern over the Taleban move. According to AFP, 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, Iranian deputy foreign minister, stated this point prior to the arrival of [UN envoy] Mahmoud Mestiri in Tehran. He said that if the Taleban group reach Kabul, a -massacre will occur in the capital of Afghanistan.

According to Borujerdi, Iran would strongly oppose Taleban's [words indistinct] and regard them as [words indistinct] agents and puppet of Pakistan.

### Deputy Foreign Minister Holds Talks in New York

*LD2809203895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed 'Abdorrahim Ghafurzai, deputy minister of foreign affairs, recently took part in a reception which was given by UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported to Bakhtar that esteemed Ghafurzai and his accompanying delegation who are in New York to take part in the UN General Assembly session, took part in a reception that was given in honor of the delegations from the member countries.

Esteemed Ghafurzai, accompanied by esteemed Dr. Rawan Farhadi, permanent representative of the Islamic State of Afghanistan in the United Nations, recently met with the chairman of the UN Security Council. At this meeting talks were held on Afghanistan's previous demand for the dispatch of a factfinding UN delegation to investigate the presence of the Pakistani militia in the southwestern regions of Afghanistan and UN measures to halt foreign interference in the affairs of our country. [words indistinct]

According to another report, esteemed the deputy minister of foreign affairs met and spoke with Mrs. Robin Raphel, U.S. assistant secretary of state for southeast Asia in the UN building.

### Dostam's Spokesman Welcomes Government Proposal

*LD2809213295 Tehran IRNA in English 2121 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Pakistan, Sept. 28, IRNA — Mowlawi Abdulbaghi Torkestani, personal representative of the National Movement of Afghanistan led by General Dostam, has welcomed President Borhanoddin Rabbani's proposal for talks between Afghan rival parties for an eventual end to civil war in that country.

In an interview with IRNA here Thursday [28 September] he commended the decision of the Afghan Government to negotiate with all national groups, but commented [words indistinct] fruitful only if the present government quit in favor of creation of a commission of all warring sides whose task it would be to decide on the political make-up of Afghanistan.

He appreciated the efforts of Mahmoud Mestiri, personal envoy of the U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, for a peaceful solution of the crisis in Afghanistan. Mestiri arrived in Tehran Wednesday within the context of U.N. efforts for solving the Afghan crisis.

### Mestiri Confirms Foreign Interference in Country

*LD2809191095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a report, Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri, special envoy of the UN secretary general on Afghanistan, has given an interview with the Voice of America in which he confirmed interference by some countries in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. He said there is evidence showing foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Mestiri, however, did not mention the name of the interventionist country.

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## India

### U.S. Urged To Review Arms Supply to Pakistan

*BK2809152995 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, has urged Washington to review its decision on the proposed supply of military equipment to Pakistan. Mr. Bhatia said in Amritsar that the U.S. move will come in the way of solving of issues between India and Pakistan and New Delhi's offer of talks to Islamabad.

Meanwhile, a joint committee comprising members of the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives is scheduled to take a final decision today on the Clinton administration's proposal to deliver the embargoed arms worth $368 million to Pakistan.

### Kashmir Militants in Mosque Vow To Repel Rivals

*BK2909112495 Hong Kong AFP in English 1114 GMT 29 Sep 95*

[Report by Izhar Wani]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Sept 29 (AFP) — Dozens of heavily armed Muslim separatist militants took over Kashmir's holiest mosque here Friday [29 September] and vowed to fight a rival guerrilla group if it tried to enter the shrine.

At least 50 gunmen from a faction of the pro-independence Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) entered the Hazratbal mosque on the outskirts of this Kashmir summer capital and drove off its dozen employees, police said. The sudden development followed a threat by renegade Muslim militant Kuka Parray to address a public meeting at the mosque on Friday and sent tension shooting up in the area.

An AFP correspondent who visited the shrine during mid-day prayers attended by barely 500 people instead of the usual 20,000 saw some men with AK-47 rifles in an adjacent building but no armed guerrillas inside the mosque itself. A militant addressed the congregation and warned Parray to expect trouble if he dared to turn up at Hazratbal, which houses what local Muslims believe is a hair from the Prophet Mohammed's beard. "We shall never allow Kuka Parray or any Indian agent to hold meetings here," the militant thundered in a short speech. "We can never betray the martyrs (of the Kashmir freedom struggle)."

Hundreds of residents of the area surrounding the mosque have fled their homes fearing bloodshed while Indian paramilitary troops and local Kashmiri policemen have been deployed around the shrine. An officer in the paramilitary Border Security Force said the shrine was not under siege. "We are there to prevent clashes," the officer said.

Senior superintendent of police Khalid Durrani said the situation was "tense" but denied there were any armed militants inside the sprawling Hazratbal complex on the banks of Srinagar's Dal Lake.

"We are frisking everybody and it is my job to ensure that no armed person goes inside," he said. But another police officer, who requested anonymity, dismissed his chief's claim. "The boys (militants) are very much inside," he said.

AFP correspondents who visited the mosque earlier in the day saw men armed with AK-47 assault rifles and heavy machine guns inside the shrine complex and its gardens. "We will do everything we can to prevent Kuka Parray from entering this place, even if we have to die," said JKLF president Shabir Siddiqi. He said his men had stockpiled enough food to last three months. Parray, 47, who has been denounced by other Kashmiri Muslim separatist groups as an Indian agent, had vowed to address the Friday congregation at Hazratbal, sparking fears of violence. Some 60 Muslim guerrillas seized control of Hazratbal in October 1993, triggering a month-long siege by the Indian army. The militants eventually surrendered.

Meanwhile the Muslim-majority Kashmir Valley was virtually paralysed by a general strike called by the fundamentalist Jamiat-ul-Mujahedeen to mourn the deaths of 14 Muslim militants killed by Indian troops on Friday. Offices, banks, stores and schools were shut in this Kashmir summer capital and vehicles went off the roads in response to the strike call.

The JKLF, founded in 1966, is Kashmir's oldest Muslim separatist group and advocates independence for the Himalayan territory. The group inside Hazratbal is a faction loyal to Pakistan-based JKLF chairman Amanullah Khan. More than 12,000 people have been killed since 1989 in the Muslim separatist drive in Kashmir, the only Muslim-majority state in predominantly-Hindu India. Pakistan denies Indian charges that it arms and trains the insurgents but admits it provides diplomatic support to what it describes as a legitimate struggle for self-determination.

### Punjab Militants Arrested for Attack Plan

*BK2809161695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Three Punjab militants who were planning to act as human bombs to attack VVIPs [very very important persons] have been arrested by the

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Delhi Police. An official spokesman said 1.4 kg of lethal RDX explosives and AK-56 rifles and 70 cartridges were recovered from them. The arrested militants are: Harpreet Singh, Jyote Singh, and Charanjit Singh. The DCP [deputy commissioner of police], special branch, Mr. B.S. Bhola, told newsmen that Harpreet Singh was a Pakistani-trained militant and was declared an absconder in the Beant Singh assassination case.

**Mukherjee, Chinese Counterpart Hold Talks**

*BK2909101295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 29 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and China have stressed the need to fight terrorism, expand the UN Security Council, and put development high on the agenda of the world body.

The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, who is in New York to attend the 50th session of the General Assembly, had wide-ranging discussions on these issues with his Chinese counterpart. Their discussions, scheduled for half an hour, were extended with the economic issues dominating the talks. The Chinese minister felt that the trade between the two countries, which amounted to only $900 million last year, needed to be increased in a big way.

About terrorism, Mr. Mukherjee said, India has been its victim in Kashmir where Pakistan-trained militants are engineering violence. The discussions, described by diplomats as substantive, also touched on the financial situation of the United Nations and reforms of the world body.

## Iran

**Foreign Minister Discusses Contact Group Session**

*NC2909073295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The second joint session of the contact groups of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and of the Western countries and Russia for the solution of the Bosnian problem was held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly last night. The session was jointly chaired by the foreign ministers of Germany and the Maghreb. In addition to the two contact groups, the session was also attended by the conflicting sides, members of the European Union, and Islamic and Western countries that have peacekeeping contingents in Bosnia.

Our correspondent Nowbaveh, who has been dispatched to New York, interviewed Foreign Minister Velayati at the end of the session and asked him to comment on its outcome and on the Islamic Republic's stand. Mr. Velayati told our correspondent:

[Begin Velayati recording] This was an effective working session. One of the major issues discussed was the proposal put forward by the Americans to solve the Bosnian problem and the agreement that was signed by the foreign ministers of Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia, and Montenegro. Each of the participating sides had some comments and questions that they put forward.

We stated that irrespective of any plan and under any name, Bosnia's territorial integrity must be preserved and that no plan should lead to the dismemberment of Bosnia. If a weak federation replaces the current system in Bosnia, it will be tantamount to a violation of Bosnia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Bosnia is a united country and should remain united. What has happened during this period has actually been an ethnic cleansing and a violation of Bosnian territory by a number of aggressors and law- breakers. Those who have gained concessions by breaking the law should not be rewarded. [end recording]

**Friday Prayers Comment on Mideast Agreement**

*LD2909115595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] In today's Friday prayer sermons of Tehran, Ayatollah [Mohammad] Yazdi, the interim Friday imam of Tehran, said: The epic—making achievements of the combatants of Islam during eight years of holy defense [Iran-Iraq war] established Islam's rule over the land of Iran completely and proved that Islamic rule is practical. He added: Despite this, the enemies of Islam and Iran deny this glaring fact and continue their enmity towards the Islamic Republic of Iran; and this requires the greater vigilance and readiness of the Muslim people of Iran.

The interim Friday imam of Tehran described obeying the guidelines of the guardian of the cause of Muslims as the secret of success of the Iranian people in the revolution and the war, saying: The presence of 30,000 basijis [members of the Mobilization Corps] in the Zolfaqar exercise shows that the masses of the Muslim people of Iran, especially its youth, continue to be ready to defend the country and confront the enemies' plots.

Ayatollah Yazdi also pointed to the recent announcement by the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international organization stressing that Iran's nuclear activities were for peaceful purposes and said: This stance has proved that America's allegations against the Islamic Republic of Iran are unfounded and baseless.

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Today, the U.S. Government should stop thinking that it is both the judge and the international police.

He also stressed the need for everyone and legal groups to take part in the forthcoming elections to the Islamic Consultative Majlis and called on the judiciary to refrain from supporting any faction or personality.

Continuing his sermons, the interim Friday imam of Tehran turned to international developments. He spoke of the new compromise of 'Arafat with the Zionist regime and described this compromise as another act of treason against the sacred aspiration of Palestine and new act of service to Israel and America.

The worshipers at Tehran University at that point began chanting slogans condemning the act of compromise with the Zionist regime.

Ayatollah Yazdi also said the contact group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference had an important duty in realizing the rights of the oppressed and Muslim people of Bosnia.

On Afghanistan, he expressed the hope that the crisis in that country is solved through negotiations with the participation of the various factions.

**'New Plot' Against Kurds Discussed**

*NC2909082595 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1500 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[Statement issued by the Democratic Party of Kordestan's (DPK) Party Committee in Salmas; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the basis of incoming information, the Islamic Republic of Iran has embarked on a new plot against the Kurdish people in general and against the people in areas in Salmas and [names indistinct] and in border villages in Turkish Kurdistan. The regime has recently amassed [word indistinct] troops in (Qiran), alleging that these forces will prevent a possible attack by the Turkish regime against Iran. Also, the regime has put pressure on the people in this area to carry arms to defend themselves and their villages. Moreover, during this period the regime (?has stolen) livestock from [name indistinct] village in Turkish Kurdistan and, in response to these acts by the regime, the [words indistinct] have taken livestock belonging to the residents of [name indistinct] villages on the Iranian side.

These acts are a general manifestation of hostility toward the Kurdish people and are considered an act of [word indistinct] and (?against) the Kurds in Iran and Turkey. The objective the regime pursues by such acts is to arm the people based on allegations of self-defense and to then use them against their own people and the just movement of the Kurdish people. [words indistinct] the regime is spreading the seeds of discord and dichotomy between the Kurds of Iran and Turkey and is fomenting hostility in the region, creating a confrontation between the Kurds in a bid to achieve its specific goals.

Therefore, the people in these regions should be well aware that (?each and every plan) of the Islamic Republic of Iran is not only not to their benefit, but is an attempt to create hostility and [name indistinct]. Thus, the respectable and zealous people not only should not give a positive answer to the regime's demands, but should also do their best to thwart this plot by the regime in all possible ways. We wish everyone success in these efforts.

[Signed] The DPK Party Committee in Salmas region.

**Forces Stage 'First Phase' of Maneuvers**

*LD2909115495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] More than 30,000 Basij and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps personnel, together with 50 battalions of the Law Enforcement Force, staged the first phase the Zolfaqar urban defense maneuvers in Tehran this morning. Our correspondent reports:

[Correspondent] [passage omitted] Forming cohesive and orderly ranks, the Basiji sisters were also present in the maneuvers today. The official in charge of coordinating the Basiji sisters in western Tehran spoke to us about the aim of organizing the presence of these sisters in the Zolfaqar maneuvers. She said: The Basiji sisters, having undergone thorough mobilization, are ready to support and assist the oppressed people of the world under various circumstances, such as natural disasters or wars.

The cries of God is Great of the Basij and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps forces, who gathered in Takhti stadium constantly filled the air. The participating forces, wearing red headbands with the inscription "Vengeance of God [Ya Thar-Allah]," raised their clenched fists and chanted in unison the slogans "Death to America" and "Iran is full of Basijis". [passage omitted]

At 1020 this morning the airborne units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps began to display their might by operations over Takhti Stadium. The parachute units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and Law Enforcement Force staged operations such as landing from helicopters and going through various

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obstacles, thereby displaying their readiness to carry out the maneuver in Tehran's various streets and squares. [passage omitted]

It must be noted that the first stage of the Zolfaqar urban defense maneuvers concluded with the political and religious Friday prayers ceremonies. The second stage of this maneuver will begin at 1530 after the stationing of participating forces in various areas of Tehran, which is when they receive the operation's codename.

**Commanders Give Interview on Army Capabilities**

*NC2909094195 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 21 Sep 95 p 4*

[First part of a two-part report by S.N. Amuzegar in the "Focus" column on an interview with commanders of the Army of Islam: Staff Lieutenant General Rahim Ebrahimi of the Classified Information Unit, Major General Ma'sumzadeh of the Research and Self-Sufficiency Jihad Unit, and Colonel Gholam Hoseyn Darbandi, by two unidentified correspondents; place and date not given: "Modern Electronic Warfare Not a Serious Threat to Iran"]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted] We asked Lieutenant General Ebrahimi what he believes the outcome of the Eight-Year Sacred Defense is for our nation.

He listed 17 important points. Some of the more significant ones are:

—The UN recognition of Iraq as the "invader" in the war.
—Proving the fact that Islam, as a comprehensive school of thought, as well as an ideology that can save humankind, is well capable of arranging a massive defense and mobilizing the masses of truth seekers.
—Strengthening the pillars of the sacred regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran by donating the martyrs' blood, which also made the honorary medals decorated on the survivors more meaningful.
—Spreading the revolutionary ideas easily and without any necessity to propagate directly or take any physical steps to meet that end.
—Introducing the newly founded Islamic Republic of Iran as a strong and independent country to the cruel world which only understands the language of arms.
—Unveiling the fake portrait of the Eastern and Western so- called superpowers and proving their vulnerability to the whole world, particularly the oppressed nations.
—Recognizing the friends and foes of the revolution.
—Creation of unity among the nation, regardless of language and religion in an all-out war.
—Proving that through reliance on the eternal power of God, unity, self-confidence and our own capabilities we can resist the most dreadful plots of superpowers, fight and win.

"And above all, as our late beloved Imam Khomeyni said, 'Our nation succeeded in believing in itself,'" said Ebrahimi.

We then posed the critical question whether our country's armed forces would prove as efficient in a modern war, as we truly proved in our Sacred Defense. In, for example, a war like that which the Americans and their allies fought pushing back the aggressor army of Saddam Husayn from Kuwait.

Lieutenant General Ebrahimi passed this question to his friend, Major General Ma'sumzadeh, who first defined the two main characteristics of the Iranian Army which led to a chain of victories: "A strong belief in God and sufficient incentive."

"We are gifted with the same valuable characteristics," said Ma'sumzadeh, "and we have also carefully studied the tapes recorded during the Persian Gulf War and done research on improving our defense capabilities in the event of such invasions. We have reached positive results which are useful to the modernization executive unit factories," said the deputy head of the research programs of the Ground Force.

"Yet we only function within the limits of conventional arms," said Lt. Ma'sumzadeh who then referred to two of the results of his unit's research worked, namely the Kobra armored vehicle, and the Zolfaqar tank.

"These machines, which have both reached mass-production level, were designed while bearing in mind the deficiencies and the advantages of the types used during the war, as well as studying the most up-to-date models," said Lt. Major Ma'sumzadeh.

According to Ma'sumzadeh, qualified personnel working at these critical projects are most often chosen from among the army staff, "But there are exceptional cases when we sign contracts with university professors, scientists or even top graduates."

The research department has already completely overhauled 90 helicopters, and this process is continuing.

"The Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran were the spearhead in the attacks during the years of the Sacred Defense; therefore, aside from the precious lives sacrificed for the sacred cause of Islam, the material damage of our Ground Forces was relatively high as well," said the deputy head of the Research and

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Self-Sufficiency Unit. "One of our crucial tasks is to reconstruct the damaged machinery."

## Pakistan

### Bhutto Views U.S. Ties, Nuclear Issue

*BK2809164095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto inaugurated the (Akrakor) dam near Gwadar this morning. Speaking on the occasion, she reiterated her government's commitment to give top priority to solve people's problems and provide basic amenities to them. The prime minister said with the construction of this dam, not only drinking water will be available for the people of the area but it would also provide irrigation water to a vast area. A green belt will be developed around Gwadar. The prime minister said the present government has provided 3.5 billion rupees to Balochistan for construction of roads during the last two years.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto said her government is taking a firm stand against terrorism, ethnicity, and narcotics trafficking. She said dictators used to divide the people, but the people's government united them, as strength of the country lies in unity of the people.

Referring to Pakistan's image abroad, she said with the grace of God Almighty, Pakistan has now emerged as a model for Muslim democratic countries in the world. We have always supported the Muslim cause throughout the world whether it is in Kashmir, Bosnia, or Afghanistan. She said India is trying to suppress the Kashmiri people by deployment of its 600,000 troops there.

The prime minister said our relations with the United States have improved. It is a matter of satisfaction that the United States administration has now recognized our just stand on the Pressler Amendment issue and the Brown Amendment has been approved by the American Senate. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said our stand is that there should be no discrimination between Pakistan and India on the nuclear issue and no security purpose would be served by any unilateral action. The prime minister said Pakistan has time and again offered the superpower that it was ready to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty provided India also did so.

Referring to Indian military preparations, she said our hostile neighbor has a potent nuclear and ambitious missile program, including Prithvi and Agni, and at the same time it has deployed 600,000 troops in occupied Kashmir.

Referring to the attitude of the opposition, she regretted that it was involved in drawing room politics. She urged the opposition to support the positive efforts of the government and shun the politics of conspiracy.

### Envoy at UN Urges Plebiscite in Kashmir

*BK2909103395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 29 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At the United Nations, Pakistan has again called for resolving the Kashmir problem through a plebiscite according to the UN resolution. Pakistan's permanent representative, Mr. Ahmad Kamal, has reminded the world body that the issue has been on its agenda for the last half a century. He was exercising the right of reply to the Indian objection to Pakistani foreign minister's statement on Kashmir. The Pakistani representative pointed out that the UN documents still describe Jammu and Kashmir as a disputed territory. The secretary general's annual report has also reaffirmed that the dispute is to be resolved in accordance with the wishes of the people. He recalled observations of the UN mediators — Sir Owen Dickson and Dr. Graham — that India had frustrated the efforts for holding a free and fair plebiscite.

Mr. Ahmad Kamal said over 600,000 Indian troops are brutalizing peaceful Kashmiris in their abortive attempt to crush the resolve to win freedom from Indian subjugation. Referring to branding the freedom struggle as a terrorist movement, the Pakistani representative said it is an age-old ploy of the colonial masters. He said India had unleashed a pattern of massive, systematic and consistent violations of human rights as part of a well-planned policy.

Referring to the incidents of kidnapping of foreigners, Mr. Ahmad Kamal said all evidence pointed clearly to the fact that the hostage-taking and murders is a crude and cynical ploy by Indian intelligence agencies to discredit the legitimate struggle.

APP has reported that after listening to the cogent, convincing and politically sound presentation by Ambassador Ahmad Kamal, the Indian representative dared not exercise his second right of reply and staged a hasty retreat.

### Minister's UN Address on Kashmir Viewed

*BK2909082095 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 29 Sep 95 p 6*

[Editorial: "UN's Obligation"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has made an astute and persuasive advocacy of Kashmir cause at the United Nations General Assembly, urging the world body to exert pressure on New Delhi to immediately implement the Security Council

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resolutions regarding plebiscite in the occupied territory. Addressing the General Assembly session, Dardar Asif Ahmad Ali reiterated Pakistan's keenness to seek a peaceful solution to the dispute either through a direct dialogue, through the UN Secretary- General's mediation or through intercession of any peace-loving country under any modality or arrangement. New Delhi has been blocking resolution of the dispute over the decades and has applied almost every stratagem in its vast reservoir of deception and subterfuge to deny the Kashmiris their UN-mandated right to self- determination. It has instead unleashed a brutal reign of repression to prolong its hold over the disputed territory. These Indian atrocities have been monitored and documented by reputed human rights organisations like the Amnesty International and Asia Watch.

Acting on the Stone Age principle of "might is right", New Delhi has embarked upon a massive build-up of its conventional and nuclear arsenals to play the regional policeman and give its hegemonic ambitions a practical shape. It has been openly defying the international community by holding on to the disputed territory through naked force. Over the decades it has frustrated all attempts at international mediation by declaring the dispute to be a bilateral matter and then refusing to engage in a meaningful dialogue with Pakistan on the blatant claim of Kashmir being "an integral part" of India. New Delhi again played this card during the 1994 secretary-level talks. While the visiting Indian Foreign Secretary J.N. Dixit admitted that Kashmir was indeed a disputed territory, his boss, Indian External Affairs Minister Dinesh Singh back home in Delhi had declared on the same day that "any further talk about a plebiscite is meaningless as the accession of the state of Jammu and Kashmir to India is final and irrevocable." This stubborn approach has characterised all the seven rounds of secretary-level talks New Delhi has reluctantly held with Islamabad over the last 23 years. It is high time the international community work up to the threat New Delhi poses to regional peace and stability by blocking a solution to the lingering dispute. As urged by Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali the United Nations should exert pressure on New Delhi to immediately cease all human rights violations in occupied Kashmir and implement the Security Council resolutions regarding a plebiscite in the disputed territory.

**Ties With Tehran Urged; Afghan Developments Cited**

*BK2809142495 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Sep 95 p 6*

[Editorial: "Keep the Channels Open"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Since day one, Iran and Pakistan have been lucky to be enjoying an unequivocal, unconditional and continued mutual support. Pakistan feels particularly indebted to Iran for going out of its way to support it, both covertly and overtly, during all moments of crises. Pakistanis too have reciprocated the selfless gestures of goodwill. Iran and Pakistan had been friends when the U.S. pretended to be a very close mutual friend. This friendship entered unwavered into an era when Iran came under fire from a paranoid U.S. Again, it did not matter at all in Pak-Iran friendship when the paranoia was directed against Pakistan and the U.S. threatened to brand Pakistan a terrorist state. As is typical of the myopic syndrome, America retracted only when, after a closer examination, if finally realised that its mindless pursuit would irretrievably push Pakistan to options that may be unsavory to Washington.

Anyone who has been alive to the events in this region for the past 40 years knows that no amount of persuasion, enticement or intimidation can alienate Pakistan from Iran, Pak-Iran friendship is time-tested. True, certain misgivings do arise occasionally but without any trace of ill will and evaporate at the first sign of rapprochement from either side because, like true friends, both communicate frankly with each other without playing diplomatic poker. It therefore did not come as a surprise when after 10 days of negotiations over Afghan issue the fact emerged that there is no divergence of views between the two brotherly countries over the Afghan issue and both are unanimous in promoting a UN sponsored solution to the dispute. Afghan situation is highly unstable because of an inconveniently large number of uncompromising contenders, each operating on a wave length of his choice in a medium of spite, distrust and blind vengeance giving rise to confusion and chaos. Hence the need for a three way shuttle diplomacy for as long as the crisis lasts. It surprises everyone, why neither Pakistan nor Iran have thought of appointing a roving ambassador to shuttle between Tehran, Islamabad and the various Afghan factions to keep everyone abreast of the rapidly changing scenario inherent in a volatile situation. Given such an institution, there would have been none of the recent speculations of potential tensions between Pakistan and Iran in the wake of the fall of Herat to Taleban. Wary of the lethal fall out of foreign intrigues and overt meddling in their neighbour's affairs. They have seen the outcome of Saudi-U.S. col-

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lusion in keeping Gulbadin Hikmatyar and promoting Rabbani-Sayyaf combine. The wind that was sown by torpedoing a likely Rabbani-Hikmatyar combine developed into a whirlwind. The Saudi-U.S. policy of pressurising Iran through promotion of factional interests in Afghanistan has proved a dismal failure and now there can only be regret over the lack of foresight and spine in the government at Islamabad at that time. The events tomorrow can be shaped by today's perception of reality. Pakistan shall have to be on guard to prevent the sad possibility of history repeating itself. It is heartening that both Islamabad and Tehran have agreed to jointly back any solution worked out by the UN special envoy on Afghanistan. It would be counterproductive if either of the two were to conceive anything behind the back of the other, for it is axiomatic that lack of confidence cannot beget confidence which alone can be the cornerstone of any positive joint approach to a solution.

## Sri Lanka

### Military Spokesman Comments on Shelling, Targeting

*BK2909023495 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 29 Sep 95*

[Report by Pramod de Silva: "Air Force Targets Only LTTE Positions, Says Military" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sri Lanka Air Force targets only clearly identified and confirmed Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) positions for aerial attacks, Military Spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said Thursday [28 September].

Munasinghe told reporters at the weekly press briefing that security forces have requested civilians to be at least one kilometre away from LTTE bases and not to participate in any LTTE meetings or processions.

He said that the Air Force engaged some LTTE targets at Nagarkovil and Thumpalai in the Northern Jaffna peninsula on September 22. A women's Sea Tiger base at Nagarkovil was among them.

"We now know that there has been a gathering inside the base to commemorate the Sea Tiger Dileepan at the time of the Air Force attack. We also know that civilians have been forcibly taken there".

Children conscripted by the LTTE could also have been in the base, he said. "If we attack the base and if they die, what can we do? There is no label to identify LTTEers and after an attack, the LTTE can always claim civilian deaths".

Intelligence reports also indicated that a school allegedly bombed by the Air Force has actually been closed at that time, he said, adding that "the LTTE has taken over many buildings for their purposes".

Referring to reports of 'heavy shelling' by the security forces, the Brigadier said the LTTE was freely using the term.

"We do not have shelling equipment and shelling ammunition is very expensive. We are using artillery equipment very carefully. We never target civilians".

In response to a question on a statement by the The French MSF (Medicine Sans Frontiers — Doctors Without Borders) which runs a medical assistance programme in the Jaffna peninsula, about 70 people dying in bombing raids by the Sri Lanka Air Force on September 22, Munasinghe said, "But the MSF did not say... whether they are civilians or Tigers."

### Military Warns Civilians To Flee Rebel Camps

*BK2809133095 Hong Kong AFP in English 1231 GMT 28 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Sept 28 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan military on Thursday [28 September] warned residents to flee from Tamil Tiger camps after the rebels claimed that airforce raids killed 71 civilians last week.

The military said claims by foreign humanitarian organisations that children were killed in raids over the northern Jaffna peninsula may be true, but insisted the target was a rebel base.

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said the raid killed 71 while the French organisation, Medicins sans Frontieres (MSF) said 44 people, including 34 children died.

"We can believe that children were killed. But we also know that children who are just 10 years old are carrying guns and are being used by the terrorists," military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe told reporters.

It is the first time security forces have responded directly to LTTE claims of civilian casualties. Munasinghe said he urged civilians in the region to move away from Tiger training camps and other facilities.

"We got confirmation that the LTTE was having a meeting at a Sea Tiger base headed by the deputy of the unit. We also know that the LTTE has taken over many school buildings to have camps," Munasinghe said.

He said his sources told him the school was closed when the airforce bombed the suspected LTTE targets at Point Pedro, Sri Lanka's northernmost town.

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Independent reports on last Thursday's bombing were censored but the government lifted censorship of foreign press on Monday.

The LTTE is leading a protracted campaign to establish an independent homeland for Sri lanka's two million Tamil minority, who live in the north and east of the country.

Over 50,000 people have died in the 23-year conflict.

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